

**CADDO PARISH MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE
YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Isabella Baltov of Caddo Parish Magnet High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Baltov as Louisiana’s best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colorado), Riley Jackson (2021-22, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, Georgia) and Addison Halpern (2024-25, Rutgers Preparatory School, New Jersey).

The 5-foot-6 senior midfielder led the Mustangs to a 13-5 record and the Division II quarterfinals this past season. Baltov scored 54 goals and passed for 17 assists, netting her team's lone goal in Parish Magnet High School’s 3-1 loss to St. Thomas More High School in the LHSAA Division II tournament quarterfinals. Baltov was crucial to her team's success with direct involvement in more than 82 percent of the Mustangs’ goals. She concluded her prep career with the school record for career assists (74) and goals (174). A four-time All-Metro and All-State First Team selection and two-time All-Metro MVP, he was named the All-State MVP as a senior.

Baltov co-founded the Red Cross Club of Shreveport, which has helped raise funds for vaccination and post-natural disaster needs. She has volunteered locally by helping to install smoke detectors in impoverished neighborhoods. “Isabella Baltov is a nightmare for opposing teams to deal with,” said Erik Lane, head coach of Captain Shreve High School. “She has the ability to chop up defenders, unbalance teams and unleash rockets from 30 yards with either foot. But what sets her apart is her ability to scan the field while under pressure and find the player who should receive the ball, which leaves opponents unable to over-play her. Her calm demeanor on the field under pressure allows her to ‘conduct the orchestra’ when her team is in possession.”

Baltov has maintained a 4.19 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at McNeese State University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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