

**CHANHASSEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE  
YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Bella Naples of Chanhassen High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Minnesota 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 Naples as Minnesota’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-8 senior midfielder led the Storm to a 13-2-3 record and the Class 3A Section 2 final this past season. Naples scored 27 goals and passed for 8 assists, netting two goals as Chanhassen High School beat Edina High School, 3-0, in the sectional semifinal. The Star Tribune Player of the Year and a two-time Metro West Conference MVP, she was also a 2025 United Soccer Coaches All-Region selection.

Naples has volunteered locally for more than 60 hours as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her school’s Key Club. She has also donated her time as a coach with the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program, serving young athletes with physical and intellectual challenges. “I have coached against Bella for the past four years and she’s been a constant, high-level threat,” said Erin Murray, head coach of Orono High School. “From a tactical standpoint, we always have to adjust our entire game plan just to account for her. Her speed with the ball is truly unmatched; even if we commit to man-marking her, we have to have a backup plan ready because she’s that difficult to contain. If you leave her open anywhere within 40 yards of goal, she’s a scoring threat. What makes Bella even more special is her character. She is an amazing teammate, constantly encouraging others and celebrating their successes. She’s exactly the kind of player and person the Gatorade Player of the Year program represents.”

Naples has maintained a 4.13 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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