

COR JESU ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Maddie DiMaria of Cor Jesu Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Missouri 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 DiMaria as Missouri’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-7 junior forward led the Chargers to a 25-0 record and the Class 4 state championship this past season. DiMaria scored 67 goals and passed for 25 assists, netting a hat trick as Cor Jesu beat St. Teresa’s Academy, 5-0, in the state championship game. She has represented Team USA at the U-14, 15, 16 and 17 levels, including winning a Gold medal with the U-15 age group at the 2025 CONCACAF Championships. The 2023-24 Gatorade National Soccer Player of the Year, three-time Gatorade Missouri Player of the Year and two-time United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, she’s ranked as the nation’s the No. 1 recruit in her class by PrepSoccer and TopDrawerSoccer.

A member of the Cor Jesu choir, she has volunteered on behalf of Christian Action Reaching everyone, the Special Needs Soccer Association, the STL Foodbank and the Arnold Food Pantry. Also a member of her school’s Green Team Club dedicated to raising environmental awareness, she has served as a Cor Jesu Shadow Guide for prospective students in addition to donating her time to CJA youth basketball and soccer camps. “Maddie is one of the fiercest competitors I’ve ever witnessed,” said LeAnne Sanders, head coach of Fort Zumwalt South High School. “She is a beast on the field with excellent field vision and the ability to score in so many ways. You can tell she makes each of the players around her better. Beyond all that, she’s humble, kind and just loves the game. She respects each of her opponents and is grateful for every moment she has on the field. I have loved the chance to watch her play and play against her.”

DiMaria has maintained a 4.24 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will graduate early and has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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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