

GALLATIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 Saira Mehmood of Gallatin High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Montana 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 Mehmood as Montana’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-1 junior forward and midfielder scored 20 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Raptors (13-3-1) to the Class AA state championship game. Mehmood was named the Sports Illustrated National High School Girls Athlete of the Week last fall after scoring five goals in an 8-1 win over Bozeman High School in the state semifinals. She was also a First Team All-State selection.

The Junior Class president of the Gallatin High School Student Council, Mehmood has volunteered locally with her school’s Environmental Club and Key Club. She has also donated her time at Sacks Thrift Store, the Museum of the Rockies (mountain range) and as a youth soccer coach. “Saira is a fantastic player,” said Erika Cannon, head coach of Bozeman High School. “She is super-quick, technical and makes really intelligent runs to get the ball into dangerous parts of the field.”

Mehmood has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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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