

ABINGTON HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Lilia Calvert of Abington Heights High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Pennsylvania 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 Calvert as Pennsylvania’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 forward led the Lady Comets to a 19-3-1 record and the Class 3A state quarterfinals this past season. Calvert scored 68 goals and passed for 20 assists, averaging more than a hat trick per game and leading the nation in total goals last fall, according to MaxPreps. She was involved in every tally when she scored 4 goals and picked up two assists in Abington Height’s 6-0 win over Shikellamy in the state tournament. She holds school records for single-season (68) and career goals (173) as well as career points (406). A three-time All-Region and All-State selection, she was also a 2025 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection.

Calvert has volunteered locally with Friends of the Poor, an organization that offers food, shelter and hope to families in need. She has also donated her time as youth coach and fitness trainer. “She’s the best high school soccer player I’ve seen in eastern Pennsylvania in more than 20 years,” said Jay Maniskas, head coach of Dallas High School. “This includes players who scored over 150 goals in high school or who went on to become NCAA All-Americans. What sets Lilia apart is her complete skill set. She is faster—with and without the ball—stronger and a more dynamic scorer than anyone else on the field. She’s also an excellent passer, relentless worker and a strong communicator who elevates players around her. Most importantly, she has a genuine drive to improve and to be great. Beyond her talent, Lil consistently displays sportsmanship.”

Calvert has maintained a weighted A-minus average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at Rutgers 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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