

NORTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Alexa Barajas of North Kingstown High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Rhode Island 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 Barajas as Rhode Island’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-9 sophomore forward scored 33 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Skippers (17-2) to the Division I state championship game. Barajas scored at least one goal in 16 of North Kingstown’s 17 games. She also missed two games early in the season while attending a training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-15 Girls National Team. A United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, she’s ranked as the nation’s No. 77 recruit in her class by TopDrawerSoccer.

Barajas is a member of her school’s Youth Driven program, a traffic safety and leadership initiative. She has volunteered locally working helping elementary school students with intellectual challenges and as a youth soccer coach. “Alexa has all the skills to be dominant in games,” said John Hoxsie, head coach of Cumberland High School. “Her feet are so fast, and her footwork makes it extremely difficult to keep up with her. When a team has a striker as talented as that, the player really stands out.”

Barajas has maintained a weighted 3.51 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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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