

## **ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Kinsley Pesicka of Roosevelt High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade South Dakota 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 Pesicka as South Dakota’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-3 senior midfielder and forward scored 18 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Rough Riders (9-2-3) to the Class AA state tournament quarterfinals. The United Soccer Coaches State Player of the Year and a USC All-Northwest Region selection, Pesicka is a two-time All-State honoree. She concluded her prep career with 33 goals and 25 assists.

A member of the Roosevelt High School National Honor Society, Pesicka has volunteered locally with her school’s Best Buddies program and the Cancer Awareness Club. She has also donated her time on behalf of Feeding SD and as a youth soccer coach. “From the moment Kinsley stepped onto the field as a freshman, she made an immediate impact,” said Cori Bonte, head coach of Roosevelt High School. “As a senior, she elevated her play even further, leading the state in scoring.”

The valedictorian of her class, Pesicka has maintained a weighted 4.18 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of South Dakota 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).

###