

**BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Saleen Koszorus of Bellevue High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Washington 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 Koszorus as Washington’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 junior forward and midfielder led the Wolverines to a 15-3-3 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Koszorus scored 18 goals and passed for eight assists, including setting up the lone goal in Bellevue’s 1-0 win over Liberty High School in the title game. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-19 Women’s National Team, Koszorus was also a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection and is ranked as the nation’s No. 12 recruit in her class by TopDrawerSoccer.

Koszorus has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and with the faith-based YoungLife ministry. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Saleen is an outstanding player,” said Roland Peekel, head coach of Inglemoor High School. “Her comfort on the ball, her first touch and her ability to manipulate space under pressure really set her apart. She plays with a level of composure and confidence that is rare, especially in high-intensity moments.”

Koszorus has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Stanford University beginning in the fall of 2027.

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).

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