

**THE BOLLES SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Olivia Candelino of The Bolles School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Candelino is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from The Bolles School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Candelino as Florida's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Candelino joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-6 senior forward led the Bulldogs to a 23-6 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Candelino amassed 41 goals and 40 assists, producing multiple points in 19 of 29 games. Twice named the Florida Dairy Farmers Class 3A Player of the Year and a three-time state champion, Candelino was a 2019 Allstate All-America selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with 107 goals and 96 assists.

A member of the Bolles School National Spanish Honor Society, Candelino has volunteered locally with her school's Hearts for the Homeless Club and as a youth soccer mentor and coach. "Olivia is a fantastic player," said Nicholle Griffith, head coach of Bishop Snyder High. "She is quick and confident with the ball. She has the accuracy and skill set to put the ball wherever she wants it to go."

Candelino has maintained a weighted 3.96 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Auburn University.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Candelino joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kamy Loustau (2018-19, St. Johns Country Day School), Abbey Newton (2017-18, St. Johns Country Day School), Bella Dorosy (2016-17, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Bella Dorosy (2015-16, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Chelsea Burns (2014-15, St. Johns Country Day School), and Bri Folds (2013-14, Lakeland Christian School) among the state's list of former award winners.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.