PINE LAKE PREPARATORY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Sadie Peterson** of **Pine Lake Preparatory** is the **2024-25 Gatorade North Carolina 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 success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Peterson as North Carolina's best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Morgan Gautrat (2010-11, Frederica Academy, Ga.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.), Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-7 junior forward led the Pride (21-2) to the Class 2A state championship this past season. Peterson scored 54 goals and 25 assists, netting one of each in Pine Lake Preparatory's 2-1 win in the state final. She scored 20 goals and recorded nine assists in six state tournament games and was also named the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year.

A National Honor Society member, Peterson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Bags of Hope food pantry and Project Linus, an initiative to help make blankets for hospitalized children. She has also donated her time to multiple pediatric cancer awareness fundraising campaigns. "Sadie Peterson can do it all—she is physically gifted, highly skilled, tactically sound and mentally tough," said Chappie Powell, head coach at Brevard High School. "Our game plan was to pack the middle and try to make her pass off to the rest of her team and see if they could beat us. It didn't work because she made 'team' plays, but when she needed to take over in one-on-one situations, she was able to outmatch any player from our team."

Peterson has maintained a 4.36 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer at Clemson University beginning in the fall of 2026.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state 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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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