

BISHOP KELLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 13, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Lauren Elwer of Bishop Kelly High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Elwer is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Kelly High 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 Elwer as Idaho'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, Elwer joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, 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 for 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-7 senior forward led the Knights to a 22-0 record and a third straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Elwer scored 48 goals and passed for 15 assists, including a tally in Bishop Kelly's 2-1 win over Sandpoint High in the state title game. The two-time Class 4A State Player of the Year, Elwer participated in the High School All-American Game. She is ranked as the No. 101 recruit in the Class of 2019 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

A member of Bishop Kelly's state-record-holding 4x200-meter track relay quartet, Elwer has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of a program that assists homeless students. She has also participated in a service-mission trip to Haiti in 2018. "Lauren knows how to score and she is fast," said Sam Duke, head coach of Columbia High. "She reads the game very well in terms of where she needs to be in order to score."

Elwer has maintained a weighted 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Gonzaga University this fall.

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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Elwer joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Makayla Christensen (2017-18, Centennial High School), Lauren Bouvia (2016-17 & 2015-16, Weiser High School), Sophia Kallas (2014-15, Boise High School) and Raimee Sherle (2013-14, Rocky Mountain High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Elwer also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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.

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