

## MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 13, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Jansen Eichenlaub of Marian High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Eichenlaub is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marian 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 Eichenlaub as Michigan'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, Eichenlaub 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 senior forward had led the Mustangs to a 16-1 record and the Division 2 state semifinals at the time of her selection. Eichenlaub recorded 23 goals and passed for seven assists through 17 games despite missing three games with a hamstring injury. A two-time Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association Dream Team member, she entered the state semifinals with 101 goals and 39 assists in her prep soccer career.

Eichenlaub writes her own music and produces her own videos. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through the Marian High National Honor Society. "Jansen is as talented a player as we've had at Marian over my past 18 seasons," said Barry Brodsky, head coach of Marian High. "She is one of the most dangerous players on the attack in the state. Her goal-scoring ability forces our opponents to account for her all the time."

Eichenlaub has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Two-time winner Eichenlaub joins Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emily Ashby (2016-17, Forest Hills Northern High School), Hannah Jones (2015-16 & 2014-15, Port Huron Northern High School) and Megan Buckingham (2013-14, Northville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Eichenlaub 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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