

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Lily Farkas of St. Teresa's Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Farkas is the fifth Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Teresa's Academy.

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 Farkas as Missouri'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, Farkas 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-5 senior midfielder and forward recorded 18 goals and eight assists this past season, leading the Stars (11-5) to a Class 4 District tournament championship game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Farkas missed five games during the season while she was in Spain playing with the Under-19 Hungarian National Team. The 2018 Class 4 State Co-Offensive MVP, she concluded her prep soccer career with 82 goals and 29 assists.

The vice president of the St. Teresa's Academy Spirit Club, Farkas has volunteered in the pre-operation department at St. Luke's Hospital of Kansas City. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "Lily has the ability to break a team down single-handedly either off the dribble or with a penetrating through ball," said Mark Twellman, head coach of St. James Academy. "She's an exceptional player with speed, skill and great field vision."

Farkas has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Farkas joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Anna Lawler (2017-18 & 2015-16, Rockwood Summit High School), Kirsten Davis (2016-17, Westminster Christian Academy) and Dorian Bailey (2014-15 & 2013-14, St. Teresa's Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Farkas 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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