

BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Gianna Gourley of Bishop Gorman High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Gourley is the sixth Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Gourley as Nevada'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, Gourley joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lallas (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-9 senior forward led the Gaels to a 28-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Gourley recorded 28 goals and 11 assists, including a hat trick in Gorman's 4-0 win over Galena High in the state title game. The Southwest League Offensive Player of the Year, Gourley also participated in the High School All-American Game. She concluded her prep soccer career with 70 goals and 23 assists.

Gourley has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Gianna Gourley is strong on both sides of the ball," said Catherine Davis, head coach of Green Valley High. "She made the biggest impact for them on the field."

Gourley has maintained a weighted 3.72 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Gourley joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Players of the Year Olivia Packer (2017-18, Palo Verde High School), Arlie Jones (2016-17, Bishop Gorman High School), Taylor Kornieck (2015-16, Coronado High School), Michaela Morris (2014-15, Coronado High School) and Sydney Sladek (2013-14, Pahrump Valley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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