

## PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Marissa Hart of Providence Day School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Hart is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Providence Day 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 Hart as North Carolina'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, Hart 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-8 senior midfielder led the Chargers to a 17-3-1 record and the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association Class 4A state championship this past season. Hart recorded 29 goals and 25 assists, setting up a score in Providence Day's 3-1 win over Charlotte Latin in the state final. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 59 goals and 68 assists.

Hart has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter, and she has donated her time at Camp SOAR for children and adults with special needs. "Marissa is one of the most well-rounded players that I've seen in awhile," said Graham West, head coach of Covenant Day School. "Marissa reads the game a little bit quicker than the other players around her so she always seems to have the time to make the right decision."

An AP Scholar with Distinction, Hart has maintained a weighted 4.11 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Princeton University this fall, where she will play soccer.

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.

Hart joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mary Elliott McCabe (2017-18, Charlotte Latin School), Ashlynn Serepca (2016-17 & 2015-16, Hough High School), Brianna Pinto (2014-15, Jordan High School) and Morgan Reid (2013-14, Cardinal Gibbons High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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