

INDIAN HILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 **Anna Podojil of Indian Hill High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Podojil is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Indian Hill 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 Podojil as Ohio'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, Podojil 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-5 senior forward led the Braves to a 18-2-3 record and a second-straight Division II state championship this past season. Podojil tallied 28 goals and nine assists, including 10 goals in Indian Hill's seven-game postseason run. The state's two-time Miss Soccer winner, Podojil is also a three-time First Team All-State selection despite undergoing ACL knee surgery between her junior and senior seasons. She concluded her prep soccer career with 117 goals and 51 assists.

Podojil has volunteered locally as a youth soccer and basketball coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Anna possesses tremendous speed, technical skills and work rate," said Amy Dunlap, head coach of Indian Hill High. "Her speed is a gift, but what separates her from other fast players is her ability to change speeds and get in behind defenses."

Podojil has maintained a weighted 4.24 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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 Podojil joins Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sofia Rossi (2016-17, Walsh Jesuit High School), Malia Berkely (2015-16 & 2014-15, Badin High School), and Abby Elinsky (2013-14, Rocky River High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###