

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Ashton Gordon of Booker T. Washington High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Gordon is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Booker T. Washington 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 Gordon as Oklahoma'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, Gordon 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-11 senior defender scored 14 goals and passed for 14 assists this past season, leading the Hornets (13-4) to the Class 5A state championship. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Gordon is a three-time First Team All-District honoree and a two-time Tulsa World All-World First Team selection.

Gordon has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, Wreaths Across America, Daughters of the American Revolution and youth soccer camps. "Gordon is a dominating presence who could play anywhere on the field and be successful," said Kirk Emerine, head coach at Pryor High. "She can run, she's physical, has a good passing game, can hit shots from distance and she's good in the air. She's just a complete player."

Gordon has maintained a 3.71 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 Gordon joins Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Malham (2016-17, Union High School), Parker Goins (2015-16, Union High School), Kaylee Dao (2014-15, Jenks High School) and Anna Beffer (2013-14, Union High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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