

## TOMPKINS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Barbara Olivieri of Tompkins High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Olivieri is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Tompkins 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 Olivieri as Texas' 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, Olivieri 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 junior midfielder and forward recorded 31 goals and 15 assists this past season, leading the Falcons (27-1) to the Class 6A state championship game. A member of the Venezuelan Under-17 Women's National Team, Olivieri had previously played for the U.S. Soccer Under-14 and Under-15 Girls National Teams. The 2019 District 19-6A Offensive MVP, she concluded her junior year with 59 goals and 37 assists.

Olivieri organized a charity program to provide soccer equipment and clothes to children in need in Venezuela. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Barbara is such a special player in the way that she can single-handedly take over a game," said Jarrett Shipman, head coach of Tompkins High. "She is incredible with the ball at her feet and creates great opportunities for herself and her teammates. She always seems to rise to the occasion in the biggest moments."

Olivieri has maintained a weighted 3.49 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Texas A&M University. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Olivieri intends to graduate from high school in December and attend classes at Texas A&M in January, 2020.

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.

Olivieri joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Grace Collins (2017-18, Memorial High School), Diana Ordonez (2016-17, Prosper High School), Cyera Hintzen (2015-16, SacHigh Schoole High School and Jordie Harr (2014-15 & 2013-14, SacHigh Schoole High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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