

**PADUA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Paige Kenton of Padua Academy as its 2019-20 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kenton is the sixth Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Padua Academy.

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 Kenton as Delaware'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, Kenton joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 of 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-10 senior forward concluded her prep career with 44 goals and 20 assists. A First Team All-State honoree, Kenton scored 18 goals and passed for eight assists as a junior, leading the Pandas (11-3) to the Division 1 state championship. Also an Allstate All-America selection, she received United Soccer Coaches All-Atlantic Region recognition as well.

Kenton has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs, the Kuumba Academy charter school and Mom's House, a daycare center serving single parents. "Kenton is a real goal-scorer, a threat at all times," said Dwayne Lavender, head coach at Caesar Rodney High. "She's tall, fast, physical, can score with both feet and she's really good in the air. It doesn't matter who they're playing, she can score against anybody."

Kenton has maintained a 4.33 GPA in the classroom. She will attend the University of Pennsylvania, 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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Kenton joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sheyenne Allen (2018-19, Charter School of Wilmington), Ashlee Brentlinger (2017-18, Padua Academy), Alyssa Poarch (2016-17, Middletown High School), Brooke Beam (2015-16, Indian River High School), Karlina Panella (2014-15, Padua Academy), and Alexis Prillaman (2013-14, Caesar Rodney High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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