

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Kelsey Oyler of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Oyler is the third Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Oyler as '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, Oyler 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-7 junior midfielder and forward led the Grizzlies to a 17-1-2 record and a second straight Class 5A state championship this past season. Oyler compiled 18 goals and 27 assists. The Idaho Press Girls Soccer Athlete of the Year, Oyler is a two-time First Team All-State selection. Representing her club team, the Boise Timber Thorns, she was one of 38 players selected to play in the Elite Clubs National League National (ECNL) Selection Game in February.

Oyler has volunteered locally as a tutor for children with special needs and as a youth soccer coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Kelsey is dangerous up top and is a good scorer," said Steve Snider, head coach of Centennial High. "She isn't just a one-way player waiting for her teammates to win the ball. She plays defense, competes hard on the ball and is always doing the extra-effort things to put herself in position to make a play."

Oyler has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Gonzaga University beginning in the fall of 2021.

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.

Oyler joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lauren Elwer (2018-19, Bishop Kelly High School), Makayla Christensen (2017-18, Centennial High School), Lauren Bouvia (2016-17, Weiser High School), Lauren Bouvia (2015-16, Weiser High School), Sophia Kallas (2014-15, Boise High School), and Raimée Sherle (2013-14, Rocky Mountain 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.