

**NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Emma Weaver of New Trier High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Weaver is the fourth Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from New Trier 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 Weaver as Illinois'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, Weaver 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior forward and midfielder was one of two Illinois players to earn Allstate All-America honors. A First Team All-State selection as a junior, Weaver led the Trevians to a third-place finish in the 2019 Class 3A state tournament. She concluded her prep soccer career with 63 goals and 40 assists.

Weaver has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Emma is one of the most if not the most dominant player I have ever coached," said Jim Burnside, head coach of New Trier High. "She is relentless and plays for her team. Not only is she a constant threat to score, she is one our very best defenders."

Weaver has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Villanova University.

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.

Two-time winner Weaver joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Hailey Rydberg (2017-18, St. Charles North High School), Emma Thomson (2016-17, Maine South High School), Kelly Maday (2015-16, New Trier High School), Jenna Szczesny (2014-15, Barrington High School), and Jenna Szczesny (2013-14, Barrington 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).