

**BISHOP MIEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Sophia Stram of Bishop Miege High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stram is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Miege 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 Stram as Kansas'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, Stram 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-6 senior forward scored the game-winning goal in the Class 4A state championship game in each of her three years with the Stags. Stram recorded four goals in Bishop Miege's 4-0 over Louisburg High in the 2019 state title game, the most goals ever scored by a single player in a championship game in state history. The 2019 Class 4A Offensive Player of the Year, Stram is a three-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with 61 goals and 28 assists.

Stram has volunteered locally on behalf of a fundraising campaign to support pediatric cancer research, and she has donated her time as a youth soccer coach and swimming instructor. "Sophia is a once-in-a-lifetime type of player," said Nate Huppe, head coach of Bishop Miege High. "She is an incredible leader both on and off the field."

Stram has maintained a weighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at St. Louis 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.

Stram joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Marissa Popoola (2018-19, Blue Valley West High School), Gracely Briley (2017-18, Blue Valley Southwest High School), Gracely Briley (2016-17, Blue Valley Southwest High School), Maycee Bell (2015-16, Trinity Academy), Parker Roberts (2014-15, Blue Valley North High School), and Parker Roberts (2013-14, Blue Valley North 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).