

**NOVI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Avery Fenchel of Novi High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Fenchel is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Novi 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 Fenchel as Michigan'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, Fenchel 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-5 senior forward was the only soccer player nominated for the Detroit Athletic Club's Michigan High School Athlete of the Year award. Named a 2019 Dream Team member by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association, Fenchel compiled 25 goals and 14 assists as a junior, and scored the winning goal as the Wildcats captured a second straight Division 1 state title. A United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 58 goals and 29 assists.

A member of Novi's Indian American Student Association, Fenchel has volunteered locally as a student assistant with Playworks Michigan, and as a youth soccer coach. "Avery is a special talent—she has a tenacity and a desire to just be better," said Todd Pheiffer, head coach of Novi High School. "She has a presence on the field that everyone is well aware of. She has the determination and the heart that separates her from every other player on the field."

Fenchel has maintained a weighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Ball State 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.

Fenchel joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jansen Eichenlaub (2018-19, Marian High School), Jansen Eichenlaub (2017-18, Marian High School), Emily Ashby (2016-17, Forest Hills Northern High School), Hannah Jones (2015-16, Port Huron Northern High School), Hannah Jones (2014-15, Port Huron Northern High School), and Megan Buckingham (2013-14, Northville 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).