

**CRETIN-DERHAM HALL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Paige Peltier of Cretin-Derham Hall as its 2019-20 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Peltier is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cretin-Derham Hall.

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 Peltier as Minnesota'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, Peltier 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-11 senior forward scored 41 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Raiders (15-5) to the Class AA state quarterfinals. The state's Class AA Miss Soccer winner, Peltier was named the Pioneer Press Metro Player of the Year. A three-time First Team All-State, selection Peltier is ranked as the nation's No. 87 recruit in the Class of 2020 by TopDrawerSoccer.com. She concluded her prep soccer career with 75 goals and 35 assists.

Peltier has volunteered locally with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities and as an elementary school mentor. She has also donated her time to Feed My Starving Children and to multiple community service initiatives through the National Honor Society. "Paige Peltier is the most dangerous player in the state," said Rosie Malone-Povolny, head coach of Cretin-Derham Hall. "She is a precise and lethal finisher who has the technical ability to take on and beat multiple defenders."

Peltier has maintained a weighted 4.16 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame.

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.

Peltier joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Megan Plaschko (2018-19, Eagan High School), Meredith Haakenson (2017-18, Maple Grove Senior High School), Meredith Haakenson (2016-17, Maple Grove Senior High School), Hannah Cade (2015-16, Lakeville North High School), Sophie Babo (2014-15, Orono High School), and Elizabeth Endy (2013-14, Minnetonka 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.