

**WEST LAUDERDALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Lucy Green of West Lauderdale High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Green is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from West Lauderdale 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 Green as Mississippi'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, Green 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-8 senior defender scored seven goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Knights (23-1-3) to their fourth state championship in five years. A Clarion Ledger First Team All-State honoree, Green is a three-time All-District selection and a two-time member of the Premier Preps team. She anchored a defense that allowed just seven goals and notched 21 shutouts.

Green has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Wesley House Community Center and the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities. "Green is a fantastic soccer player who leads from the back," said Jeremy Shortt, head coach at Brandon High. "She's that box-to-box outside back who is a very rare commodity in this game."

Green has maintained a 4.28 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Mississippi.

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.

Green joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Soccer Players of the Year Morgan O'Connor (2018-19, Oxford High School), Tay Collum (2017-18, Northwest Rankin High School), Morgan O'Connor (2016-17, Oxford High School), Alley Houghton (2015-16, Lafayette High School), Alley Houghton (2014-15, Lafayette High School), and Beth Coleman (2013-14, West Jones 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).

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