

**ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Grace Bindbeutel of St. Dominic High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Bindbeutel is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Dominic 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 Bindbeutel as Missouri'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, Bindbeutel 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-4 sophomore forward was one of the leading scorers for the Under-16 St. Louis Scott Gallagher club team in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy. The 2019 St. Louis Post Dispatch All-Metro Co-Player of the Year, Bindbeutel scored 30 goals and passed for 16 assists as a freshman to lead the Crusaders to the Class 3 state championship. Also a 2019 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection, Bindbeutel is ranked as the nation's No. 123 recruit in the Class of 2022 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Bindbeutel has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter in addition to donating her time as a youth soccer coach. "Grace Bindbeutel is one of the brightest talents in Missouri high school soccer right now," said Greg Koeller, head coach of St. Dominic High. "She is difficult to dispossess and her finishing is top-notch."

Bindbeutel has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school this fall.

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.

Bindbeutel joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lily Farkas (2018-19, St. Teresa's Academy), Anna Lawler (2017-18, Rockwood Summit High School), Kirsten Davis (2016-17, Westminster Christian Academy), Anna Lawler (2015-16, Rockwood Summit High School), Dorian Bailey (2014-15, St. Teresa's Academy), and Dorian Bailey (2013-14, St. Teresa's Academy) 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.

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