

**BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Elle Hill of Bismarck High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hill is the second Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck 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 Hill as North Dakota'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, Hill 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-10 senior midfielder and forward finished her prep career with 35 goals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Hill scored a state-best 20 goals in 2019, leading the Demons to a 12-4 record. She was also a three-time All-Western Dakota Association selection.

A devoted member of her church community, Hill has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics. "Elle is a strong, physical and fast central midfield player who controls everything for our team," said Bismarck High coach Andy Foss. "This pandemic has been especially hard on her, because her entire high school career was a build-up to her senior year and she was poised to have an incredible season. She's a truly remarkable young woman, on and off the field."

Hill has maintained a 4.06 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

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.

Hill joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Allison Lepp (2018-19, 2017-18, Minot High School), Sofia Lewis (2016-17, Minot High School), Jenny Marsh (2015-16, 2014-15, Davies High School), and Anna Reinholz (2013-14, Shanley 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.

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