

**LAKOTA WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Kailyn Dudukovich of Lakota West High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Dudukovich is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakota West 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 Dudukovich as Ohio'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, Dudukovich 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 junior forward led the Firebirds to a 22-0-2 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Dudukovich amassed 50 goals and passed for nine assists, scoring both goals in Lakota West's victories in the state quarterfinals, semifinals and title game. The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association's Ms. Soccer winner, Dudukovich is ranked as the nation's No. 8 recruit in the Class of 2021 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Dudukovich helped organize and run a "Coats for Kids" campaign to benefit needy children. She has volunteered locally with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Cincinnati and as a youth soccer coach. "I have been coaching for more than 25 years and I can hardly remember a player statistically having the kind of season Kailyn had in 2019," said Todd Kelly, head coach of Loveland High. "For her to finish with 50 goals playing the quality opponents she competed against, knowing each of those teams was specifically trying to stop her is pretty remarkable."

Dudukovich has maintained a weighted 4.78 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at The Ohio State University beginning in the fall of 2021.

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.

Dudukovich joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Players of the Year Anna Podojil (2018-19, 2017-18, Indian Hill High School), Sofia Rossi (2016-17, Walsh Jesuit High School), Malia Berkely (2015-16, 2014-15, Badin High School), and Abby Elinsky (2013-14, Rocky River 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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