

**MARS AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Ellie Coffield of Mars Area High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Coffield is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mars Area 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 Coffield as Pennsylvania'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, Coffield 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-7 junior midfielder led the Fightin' Planets to a 22-0-1 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Coffield amassed 31 goals and 30 assists, including three goals and three assists in four state tournament matches. A First Team All-State selection, Coffield was named the 2019 Moe Rosensteel Most Outstanding Player of the Year by Pittsburgh Soccer Now. She concluded her junior year with 71 goals and 65 assists in her prep soccer career.

A state champion with the Mars High girls basketball team, Coffield has volunteered locally for her family-run The Cure for Cancer Soccer Foundation, which raises funds to support pediatric cancer research. She has also donated her time as a preschool teacher at her church and as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "Ellie can not only get the ball in the net, but she is the one who commands the field and her team," said Kelly Bender, head coach of Gateway High. "She has amazing field vision and decision-making ability in addition to her technical skills."

Coffield has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh 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.

Coffield joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Players of the Year Camryn Lexow (2018-19, Abington High School), Delaney Snyder (2017-18, Moon Area High School), Murphy Agnew (2016-17, Villa Joseph Marie High School), Rachael Dorwart (2015-16, Cumberland Valley High School), Sydney Zandi (2014-15, Henderson High School), and Megan Schafer (2013-14, Neshaminy 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.