

**SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Faith Hutchins of South Kingstown High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hutchins is the third Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Kingstown 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 Hutchins as Rhode Island'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, Hutchins 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 goalkeeper led the Rebels to a 15-3 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Hutchins allowed 11 goals and posted 11 shutouts, including a pair of clean sheets in the state semifinals and state title game. The MVP of the state championship match, Hutchins is a three-time First Team All-State selection and a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree. She concluded her prep soccer career with 35 shutouts.

Also a state champion as a member of the South Kingstown softball and basketball teams, Hutchins has volunteered locally as part of community-beautification projects and has donated her time to her town's basketball development league. "Faith had another amazing season for South Kingstown," said Mark D'Arezzo, head coach of North Kingstown High. "She has a tremendous presence in goal and has great hands and quick feet. If there was a big save to make, she could easily be counted on to make that save."

Hutchins has maintained a weighted 4.31 GPA in the classroom. In the coming year, she will attend the Taft School in Connecticut for postgraduate study.

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.

Hutchins joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year Olivia Freitas (2018-19, 2017-18, La Salle Academy), Marykate McGuire (2016-17, 2014-15, Portsmouth High School; 2015-16, St. George's School), and Kara Shaw (2013-14, Exeter-West Greenwich 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).