

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Miya Poplin of Hilton Head Island High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Poplin is the second Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hilton Head Island 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 Poplin as South Carolina'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, Poplin 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-5 senior midfielder scored six goals and passed for three assists in seven games this spring before the remainder of the season was canceled. A three-time All-State honoree, Poplin posted 24 goals and 13 assists as a junior. Also a three-time All-Region selection, she is ranked as the South Atlantic region's No. 15 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Top Drawer Soccer.

Poplin has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement community, youth soccer programs and the Waddell Mariculture Center in association with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. "Miya Poplin is a complete soccer player," said Memo Suarez, head coach at Socastee High School. "She's a true playmaker with a tremendous work ethic. She's all over the field creating defensive and attacking plays."

Poplin has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Furman University.

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.

Poplin joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caroline Conti (2018-19 & 2016-17, J.L. Mann Academy), Riane Coman (2017-18, Academic Magnet High School), Kasey Parker (2015-16 & 2014-15, Dreher High School), and Jeni Erickson (2013-14, J.L. Mann 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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