

**YANKTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH 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 Jaiden Boomsma of Yankton High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Boomsma is the first Gatorade South Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Yankton 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 Boomsma as South 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, Boomsma 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-6 senior forward led the Gazelles to a 15-0-2 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Boomsma scored 14 goals and passed for five assists, including the lone score in Yankton's shutout of Aberdeen Central High in the state final. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Boomsma was also the United Soccer Coaches South Dakota Player of the Year. She concluded her prep soccer career with 49 goals and 15 assists.

Boomsma has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple farm safety initiatives with the Jaxon L. Boomsma Keep His Smile Alive Memorial, founded in honor of her little brother, who was killed in a farming accident in 2016. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer and gymnastics coach. "Jaiden was the most impactful player in the state," said Ryan Beier, former head coach of O'Gorman High School. "She was very fast and athletic. If you didn't have a person single-marking her, she would create an immediate goal-scoring opportunity. She was their biggest weapon and very hard to contain."

Boomsma has maintained a weighted 4.10 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run track on scholarship at South Dakota State 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.

Boomsma joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lexie Wood (2018-19, Stevens High School), Joana Zanin (2017-18, T.F. Riggs High School), Theresa Pujado (2016-17 & 2015-16, O'Gorman High School), Jessica Ryan (2014-15, Belle Fourche High School), and KJ Medler (2013-14, St. Thomas More 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.