

**BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Sydney Ham of Briarcrest Christian School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ham is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Briarcrest Christian 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 Ham as Tennessee'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, Ham 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 and forward led the Saints to a 17-1-1 record and the Division II, Class AA state championship this past season. Ham scored 28 goals and passed for 11 assists, setting up the lone score in the Saints' 1-0 win over Father Ryan School in the state final. The Daily Memphian Player of the Year, Ham participated in the High School All-American Game in December. Ranked as the nation's No. 168 recruit in the Class of 2020, she concluded her prep soccer career with 81 goals and 33 assists.

Ham has volunteered locally as an inner-city elementary school tutor, and she has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Sydney was a machine for Briarcrest," said Bobby Ireland, head coach of St. Agnes Academy. "Her ability to change a game single-handedly was hard to deal with as an opposing coach. She was definitely the driving force for them."

Ham has maintained a weighted 4.80 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Mississippi.

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.

Ham joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Players of the Year Cara Young (2018-19, Houston High School), Jenna Kemp (2017-18, Houston High School), Karlie Paschall (2016-17 & 2014-15, Ravenwood High School), Gabby Little (2015-16, Houston High School), and Josie Jennings (2013-14, Farragut 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.