

**CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Lauren Brown of Catholic Memorial High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Brown is the third Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Catholic Memorial 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 Brown as Wisconsin'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, Brown 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 midfielder and forward concluded her prep career with 73 goals and 53 assists, leading the Crusaders to a 64-8-9 record and two state championships. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Brown scored 30 goals and passed for 20 assists in 2019, as Catholic Memorial captured the Division 3 title. She is also a three-time All-Classic 8 Conference First Team honoree.

President of her school's student council, Brown has participated in Operation Michael, which raises awareness of the homeless, and has volunteered locally on behalf of Queen of Apostles Church and the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities. "Lauren has earned the respect of coaches around the state for her extraordinary quickness, skill and leadership," said Catholic Memorial High School coach John Burke. "I've never had a player I trust more with one of my teams. Her support of her teammates, even in the most challenging moments, helps everyone believe that success is possible."

Brown has maintained a weighted 4.41 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at The Ohio 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emma Nagel (2018-19, Bay Port High School), Brandi Thomsen (2017-18, Brookfield Central High School), Taylor Kerwin (2016-17, Whitefish Bay High School), Dani Rhodes (2015-16 & 2014-15, Waukesha West High School), and Emily Cervantes (2013-14, Catholic Memorial 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.