

**CARAVEL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 15, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Caitlin St. Leger of Caravel Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year. St. Leger is the first Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Caravel Academy.

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 St. Leger as Delaware'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, St. Leger 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-8 senior midfielder scored 19 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Buccaneers (15-1) to the Division 2 state championship. St. Leger is a two-time First Team All-State and All-Conference honoree and she's a United Soccer Coaches All-American. A member of Ireland's U17 National Team, she concluded her prep career with 44 goals and 35 assists.

St. Leger has volunteered locally on behalf of the United Way, Ronald McDonald House Charities and youth soccer programs. "Caitlin St. Leger is the most complete player that we played against," said Mike Osborne, head coach at Smyrna High. "She does it all well—touch, awareness, passing, scoring, in the air, intelligence, leadership."

St. Leger has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Delaware this fall.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

St. Leger joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year Paige Kenton (2019-20, Padua Academy), Sheyenne Allen (2018-19, Charter School of Wilmington), Ashlee Brentlinger (2017-18, Padua Academy), and Alyssa Poarch (2016-17, Middletown High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," St. Leger has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. St. Leger is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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