

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Kelsey Oyler of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Oyler is the third Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Oyler as Idaho'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, Oyler 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior midfielder led the Grizzlies to a 15-1 record and a third straight Class 5A state championship this past season. Oyler amassed 19 goals and 29 assists, including an assist in Rocky's 2-1 win over Boise High in the state final. A two-time Idaho Press Girls Soccer Athlete of the Year, Oyler is a three-time First Team All-State honoree. She was selected to play in the 2020 High School All-American last month in St. Louis and concluded her prep soccer career with 66 goals and 69 assists.

Oyler has volunteered locally making and distributing blankets to patients on the pediatric ward at St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Kelsey is the real deal. She is such a dangerous player," said Alyssa Wolf, head coach of Mountain View High. "She is able to read the field so well, which makes her so unpredictable."

Oyler graduated with a weighted 3.96 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, she inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at Gonzaga University, enabling her to attend classes during the recent spring semester.

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.

Two-time winner Oyler joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lauren Elwer (2018-19, Bishop Kelly High School), Makayla Christensen (2017-18, Centennial High School), and Lauren Bouvia (2016-17, Weiser High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Oyler has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Oyler 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.