

**SACRED HEART ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Mallory Glass of Sacred Heart Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Glass is the sixth Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sacred Heart 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 Glass as Kentucky'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, Glass 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 junior midfielder and forward led the Valkyries to a 17-4-1 record and the state championship this past season. Glass recorded 22 goals and seven assists. A United Soccer Coaches High School All-American and the Region 7 Player of the Year, she missed Sacred Heart's first five games of the season with an injury. The Valkyries lost four of those games, but did not lose again once Glass returned. She concluded her junior year with 41 goals and 16 assists in her prep soccer career.

A state champion swimmer when she was younger, Glass has volunteered locally donating soccer equipment to underprivileged children, and she has served on behalf of Kentucky Great Dane Rescue and as a youth soccer coach. "Mallory's ability to elevate her team and teammates is off the charts," said Christian Lauria, head coach of Sacred Heart Academy. "She is a team player first, and loves to get her teammates involved. Her drive and desire to be successful is so much fun to watch."

Glass has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Kentucky beginning in the fall of 2022.

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.

Glass joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Players of the Year Anna Haddock (2019-20 & 2018-19, Greenwood High School), Cassie Amshoff (2017-18, Sacred Heart Academy), and Eva Mitchell (2016-17, West Jessamine High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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