

**GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 15, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kenzie Williams of Glacier High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Williams is the second Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Glacier 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 Williams as Montana'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, Williams 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 defender led the Wolfpack to a 14-4 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Williams tallied two goals and three assists, including the lone assist in Glacier's 1-0 win over Helena High in the state final. The 2020 Class AA Western Conference Player of the Year, she is a three-time First Team All-State honoree and was named 2020 All-Northwest Region by the United Soccer Coaches. She is the younger sister of 2017-18 Gatorade State Player of the Year Cadie Williams.

A member of Glacier High's Wolfpack Leadership Club, Williams has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "Kenzie Williams, almost single-handedly, was responsible for saving the [state championship] win for Glacier," said Mike Meloy, head coach of Helena High. "She was all over the backline and her clears were always past midfield. We'd gather the ball and take it back to our attacking third and she'd spoil it again. She was a phenomenal leader."

Williams has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will attend the University of Montana 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Halle Labert (2019-20, Skyview High School), Jordan Roe (2018-19, Skyview High School), Cadie Williams (2017-18, Glacier High School), and Alexa Coyle (2016-17, Bozeman High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Williams has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Williams 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

###