

**GALENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Isabella Flocchini of Galena High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Flocchini is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Galena 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 Flocchini as Nevada'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, Flocchini 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 and forward led the Grizzlies to an 11-0 record and the Class 5A Northern Region Tournament championship this past season. Flocchini scored 32 goals and passed for four assists, and she netted four goals in Galena's 5-0 win over Douglas High in the regional title game. The 2021 Northern Region Offensive Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with the Class 4A/5A state record for goals with 118 to go with 47 assists.

Flocchini has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through the Galena High soccer program. "Isabella is one of the most gifted players I have seen," said Jason Saville, long-time head coach at Reed High. "She just took over games. Her technical ability is among the top five of any opponent I have coached against, and her vision is among the top 10. Her athleticism is second to none and she seems to glide effortlessly on the pitch."

Flocchini has maintained a weighted 4.40 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at San Jose State University 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.

Flocchini joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jordan Brown (2019-20, Faith Lutheran High School), Gianna Gourley (2018-19, Bishop Gorman High School), Olivia Packer (2017-18, Palo Verde High School), and Arlie Jones (2016-17, Bishop Gorman High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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