

**MADISON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Taylor Huff of Madison Comprehensive High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Huff is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison Comprehensive 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 Huff as Ohio'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, Huff 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 forward led the Rams to a 21-0-3 record and a second-straight Division II state championship this past season. Huff recorded 34 goals and 27 assists, including 13 goals and 13 assists in eight postseason games. The Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association's Miss Soccer winner, Huff was named the 2020 National High School Player of the Year by United Soccer Coaches. A two-time Division II Player of the Year, she is ranked as the nation's No. 68 recruit in the Class of 2021 by TopDrawerSoccer.com. She concluded her prep career with 133 goals and a state-record 93 assists.

A four-year member of the student council at Madison High, Huff also served as senior class president. She has volunteered locally with the Matthew 25 Outreach Center, which distributes food to people in need. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "There is no game-planning against Taylor," said Larry Atkinson, head coach of Ontario High. "She has the speed, skill, physicality and just overall ability to take over a game whenever she wants."

Huff has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Tennessee 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.

Huff joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kailyn Dudukovich (2019-20, Lakota West High School), Anna Podojil (2018-19 & 2017-18, Indian Hill High School), and Sofia Rossi (2016-17, Walsh Jesuit High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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