

**LA SALLE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Catherine Clements of La Salle Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Clements is the seventh Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from La Salle 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 Clements as Rhode Island'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, Clements 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-5 senior midfielder and forward led the Rams to a 9-0-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Clements recorded four goals and four assists, including one assist in La Salle's 3-0 win over Pilgrim High in the state final. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was also a 2020 New England Soccer Journal All-New England honoree. She concluded her prep soccer career with 13 goals and 15 assists.

A La Salle Academy school ambassador, Clements has volunteered locally as a youth soccer and ice skating coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through both the La Sallian Youth Club and her church. "Cathy has the ability to play virtually any position on the field, making her not only a valuable asset to her team, but also a nuisance to any opponent," said Lindsay Longval, head coach of La Salle Academy. "Cathy possesses a can-do attitude, finding a way to succeed herself and showing her teammates the way at the same time."

Clements has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to attend Wesleyan College this fall, where she will play soccer.

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.

Clements joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year Faith Hutchins (2019-20, South Kingstown High School), Olivia Freitas (2018-19 & 2017-18, La Salle Academy), and Marykate McGuire (2016-17, Portsmouth High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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