

**FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Sydney Becerra of Flower Mound High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Becerra is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Flower Mound 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 Becerra as Texas' 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, Becerra 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-7 junior midfielder led the Jaguars to a 24-1-2 record and the UIL 6A state championship this past season. Becerra scored 15 goals and passed for 20 assists, including setting up both goals in Flower Mound's 2-1 win over Vandegrift High in the state final. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team training pool, she is ranked as the nation's No. 43 recruit in the Class of 2022 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Becerra has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach, and she has donated her time with multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Sydney is a very talented player," said Heather Morse, head coach of Plano Senior High. "She is extremely technical, and her soccer IQ is very high. She was the engine in their midfield and she fostered so much creativity for them."

Becerra has maintained a weighted 3.88 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school next fall, but will miss the spring soccer season by availing herself of NCAA early signing rules. Becerra will ink a financial-aid agreement that paves the way for her to enroll at Texas A&M after graduating high school this coming December.

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.

Becerra joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jillian Martinez (2019-20, Madison High School), Barbara Olivieri (2018-19, Tompkins High School), Grace Collins (2017-18, Memorial High School), and Diana Ordonez (2016-17, Prosper High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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