

**WHITEFISH BAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Maggie Starker of Whitefish Bay High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Starker is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Whitefish Bay 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 Starker as Wisconsin'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, Starker 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 senior forward had led the Blue Dukes to a 15-0 record, a berth in the regional finals and the No. 9 national ranking in United Soccer Coaches poll at the time of her selection. Starker scored 29 goals and passed for 19 assists through 15 games. The North Shore Conference Player of the Year, she was a First Team All-State selection as a sophomore. She had recorded 64 goals and 56 assists in her prep career entering the postseason.

Starker has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, blood-donation drives, youth soccer teams and her school's Best Buddies program. "In my opinion, Maggie Starker is the best player the state has seen in a few years," said Eric Dale, head coach at Wauwatosa East High. "She's incredibly strong on the ball and she sees the field so well, making her a player who creates for her teammates as well. She understands the game way better than other goal scorers."

Starker has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Marquette 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.

Starker joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lauren Brown (2019-20, Catholic Memorial High School), Emma Nagel (2018-19, Bay Port High School), Brandi Thomsen (2017-18, Brookfield Central High School), and Taylor Kerwin (2016-17, Whitefish Bay High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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