

**DAWSON SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE COLORADO GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 30, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Degen Miller of Dawson School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Miller is the second Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Dawson 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 Miller as Colorado's best high school girls soccer player. Miller 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-9 senior forward led the Mustangs to a 12-1 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Miller scored 43 goals and passed for 16 assists, including four goals and two assists in a 15-4 win over Telluride High in the state final. The 2019 Class 2A Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection, Miller is a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-19 Team player pool. She concluded her prep soccer career with 99 goals and 40 assists in just 33 games.

Miller has volunteered locally on behalf of There With Care, an organization that provides support to families with children facing serious illness. During summers, she has donated her time to Save the Bay in Rhode Island, cleaning beaches along the coastline. "Degen is the whole package," said Eric Osberg, head coach of Front Range Christian High. "She is the leader of that team and has made everyone around her better. Her vision on the field is phenomenal and she sees everyone and everything. What sets Degen apart is she knows when to involve her teammates and when she needs to take a game over."

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

Miller joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mallory Mooney (2019-20, Broomfield High School), Mari Annet (2018-19, Colorado Academy), Hailey Stodden (2017-18, Broomfield High School), and Shae Holmes (2016-17, ThunderRidge High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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