

GLENBROOK NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 30, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Riley Philbin of Glenbrook North High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Philbin is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Glenbrook North 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 Philbin as Illinois' best high school girls soccer player. Philbin 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 scored 23 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Spartans (14-2-3) to the Class 3A sectional semifinals. Philbin recorded eight multi-goal games including three hat tricks to set a school record in her only year playing high school soccer due to previous club soccer commitments. She was a First Team All-State selection.

Philbin has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children and as a youth soccer coach. "Riley is a phenomenal talent, simply put," said Seong Ha, head coach of Mundelein High. "She is dynamic in many aspects and can be an absolute game-changer. She can post up as a target player while setting up others, turning on a dime for a blistering shot, or beat you off the dribble dynamically taking on players through a maze for a quality finish."

Philbin has maintained a weighted 4.06 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Philbin joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emma Weaver (2019-20 & 2018-19, New Trier High School), Hailey Rydberg (2017-18, St. Charles North High School), and Emma Thomson (2016-17, Maine South High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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