

DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Madison Salzenstein of Detroit Country Day School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Salzenstein is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Detroit Country Day 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 Salzenstein as Michigan's best high school girls soccer player. Salzenstein 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-4 senior midfielder and forward led the Yellow Jackets to a 17-2-2 record and the Division 3 state championship this past season. Salzenstein scored 18 goals and passed for eight assists, tallying the only assist in the state semifinals and then a pair of goals in DCD's 3-0 win over Boyce City High in the state final. Named Miss Soccer by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association, she concluded her prep soccer career with 34 goals and 14 assists.

Salzenstein won a Scholastic Art and Writing Awards prize in 2020 for her work on a group film titled "Overload" about the stresses of high school. An avid artist, some of her work is on display at Detroit Children's Hospital of Michigan. She has also volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter, and she has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Madi was an absolute monster this year," said Jim Stachura, head coach of Notre Dame Prep. "What makes her special is she can do so many things for you. She can be a creator, a goal-scorer or a defensive midfielder that can ruin the game for opponents. Having someone who can do all that and do it at the level she does is unique."

Salzenstein has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Western Michigan 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.

Salzenstein joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Players of the Year Avery Fenchel (2019-20, Novi High School), Jansen Eichenlaub (2018-19 & 2017-18, Marian High School), and Emily Ashby (2016-17, Forest Hills Northern High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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