

**WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Elise Evans** of **Woodside High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Evans is the first Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodside 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 Evans as California'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, Evans 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 and defender scored 18 goals and passed for four assists in just 12 games this past season, leading the Wildcats (15-2-1) to the Central Section Open Division Tournament quarterfinals. Evans was the Bay League Forward of the Year and the 2022 San Mateo Journal Player of the Year. Ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2022 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she is a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-20 Women's National Team player pool.

Evans was the Woodside Student Body president for the 2021-22 school year. Also the president of her school's Black Student Union, she has volunteered locally with LifeMoves, a program that coordinates holiday meal baskets for unhoused families. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Elise has great field vision with the ability to read what the opposing team is doing both offensively and defensively," said Phil DeRosa, head coach of Burlingame High. "When they need a goal, Elise plays on top and scores. When they need more defense, Elise moves to the back and shuts down the offensive attack."

Evans has maintained a weighted 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Stanford 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Evans joins recent Gatorade California Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alyssa Thompson (2020-21, Harvard-Westlake School), Grace Watkins (2019-20, Mira Costa High School), Sophie Jones (2018-19, Menlo School), and Isabella D'Aquila (2017-18, JSerra Catholic High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Evans has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Evans is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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