

**NEUQUA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Brooke Miller** of **Neuqua Valley High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Miller is the second Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Neuqua Valley 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 Miller as Illinois'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, 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-8 senior midfielder scored 15 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (7-9-2) to the Class 3A sectional semifinals. A natural center back, Miller was the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association's Player of the Year despite playing out of position and is a two-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her prep soccer career with 35 goals and 24 assists.

A member of the Principal Advisory Committee at Neuqua Valley, Miller has volunteered locally as a senior advisor, a role in which she met daily with a group of 25 freshmen. She has also donated her time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through her school's chapter of the J. Kyle Braid Leadership Foundation, an experiential-education youth-empowerment organization. "Brooke is a total package," said Julie Bergstrom, head coach of Waubonsie Valley High School. "She is competitive, talented, hard-working, humble, athletic and an excellent leader. Even as the rival opponent, our players always had positive comments to share about Brooke on how she was a talented player or how hard she trains on her own or how she is a caring person."

Miller has maintained a weighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Northwestern 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.

Miller joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Riley Philbin (2020-21, Glenbrook North High School), Emma Weaver (2019-20 & 2018-19, New Trier High School), and Hailey Rydberg (2017-18, St. Charles North 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, Miller 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. Miller 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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