

**BUCKINGHAM, BROWNE & NICHOLS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Molly Martin** of **Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Martin is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Buckingham, Browne & Nichols 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 Martin as Massachusetts' 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, Martin 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 defender led the Knights to a 21-0 record and the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A tournament championship this past season. Martin scored six goals and passed for nine assists while anchoring a defense that allowed just two goals all season. Ranked as the nation's No. 116 recruit in the Class of 2022 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she played in the High School All-American Game in December and participated in a virtual camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team in April 2021.

Martin has volunteered locally as a school tour guide and on behalf of the Special Olympics. She has also donated her time at a soup kitchen and as a youth soccer coach. "Molly Martin is an incredible player," said Nick Rugnetta, head coach of Thayer Academy. "She basically just dictates play, dominates the midfield and controls the entire tempo of the game while also generating and springing attacks for BB&N. I will miss seeing Molly play except for when she played Thayer."

Martin has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Martin inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at Penn State University. She graduated from high school in December and began attending classes in Happy Valley this past spring semester.

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.

Martin joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Soccer Players of the Year Arianna Bezanson (2020-21, Danvers High School), Cat Barry (2019-20 & 2018-19, Tabor Academy), and Kayla Duran (2017-18, Buckingham Browne & Nichols 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, Martin 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. Martin 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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