

**ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Grace Bindbeutel** of **St. Dominic High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Bindbeutel is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Dominic 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 Bindbeutel as Missouri'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, Bindbeutel 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.).

Also the state's 2019-20 Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, the 5-foot-4 senior forward led the Crusaders to a 23-3 record and the Class 4 state championship this past season. Bindbeutel scored 23 goals and passed for 11 assists, tallying eight goals and three assists in St. Dominic's six-game postseason run to the title. A two-time United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection, she was the 2021 Class 4 Player of the Year and concluded her prep soccer career with 74 goals and 40 assists.

Bindbeutel has volunteered locally at the St. Charles Pet Adoption Center and the St. Louis Food Pantry. She has also donated her time on behalf of SPENSA, a soccer program for children with special needs. "Grace was one of the most well-rounded players I've seen in years," said Rachel Brcic, head coach of Cor Jesu High School. "Even as a freshman, she was such a dynamic player and was difficult to defend because of her knowledge of the game and off-the-ball movement. She only got better as her high school career went on."

Bindbeutel has maintained a weighted 3.64 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Oklahoma State 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.

Two-time winner Bindbeutel joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Rylee Howard (2020-21, Lafayette High School), Lily Farkas (2018-19, St. Teresa's Academy), and Anna Lawler (2017-18, Rockwood Summit 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, Bindbeutel 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. Bindbeutel 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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