

**GALLATIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Olivia Collins** of **Gallatin High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Collins is the first Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gallatin 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 Collins as Montana'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, Collins 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 junior forward scored 19 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Raptors (12-2-4) to the Class AA state championship game in the program's second year of existence. Collins is a two-time Eastern AA Division Player of the Year and has led the division in scoring both years. She spent her freshman year at Bozeman High before Gallatin opened in the fall of 2020.

Collins has volunteered locally with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Big Sky Country and on behalf of community beautification projects. "What Olivia has done the past two seasons has been really amazing," said Cam Icenoggle, head coach of Skyview High School. "Every coach in the conference knew the key to getting results against Gallatin was to try to control Olivia, and she still averaged more than a goal a game and became even better at picking out her teammates. There was pressure on her every single game this past season to create for her team and she consistently delivered."

Collins has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Boise State University beginning in the fall of 2023.

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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kenzie Williams (2020-21, Glacier High School), Halle Labert (2019-20, Skyview High School), Jordan Roe (2018-19, Skyview High School), and Cadie Williams (2017-18, Glacier 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, Collins 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. Collins 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).