

**MECHANICSBURG AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Halle Engle** of **Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Engle is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mechanicsburg Area Senior 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 Engle as Pennsylvania'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, Engle 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-6 senior forward scored 50 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (18-4-2) to the Class 3A state quarterfinals. Engle scored in 23 of Mechanicsburg's 24 games including 16 multi-goal games featuring eight hat tricks. The Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association State Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 132 goals and 47 assists.

Engle has volunteered locally with New Hope Ministries and as both a peer tutor and soccer referee. She has also donated her time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Halle is the best player I have ever seen at this level," said Tim Grinstead, head coach of Palmyra High School. "She is strong and fast. We have some very fast players and they were barely able to keep up with her. Many times, we would double- and triple-team her just to keep the ball off her foot. We have never had to do that to another player."

Engle has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Liberty University (Va.) 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.

Engle joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ellie Coffield (2020-21 & 2019-20, Mars Area High School), Camryn Lexow (2018-19, Abington High School), and Delaney Snyder (2017-18, Moon Area 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, Engle 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. Engle 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.