

**BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Brinley Murphy** of **Bearden High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Murphy is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bearden 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 Murphy as Tennessee'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, Murphy 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-10 junior forward led the Bulldogs to a 23-0-1 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Murphy scored 30 goals and passed for 11 assists, and she recorded a goal in each of Bearden's three state tournament victories. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Murphy is also a two-time regional Player of the Year and a 2021 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection. She concluded her junior year with 69 goals and 31 assists in her prep soccer career.

Murphy has volunteered locally at a food bank and on behalf of the Salvation Army. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "Brinley is one of the most talented and hardest-working athletes that I have ever coached," said Ryan Radcliffe, head coach of Bearden High sCHOOL. "She's a player that has been dominating on the field through her work ethic and skill since her freshman year."

Murphy has maintained a weighted 4.19 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Murphy joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caroline Betts (2020-21, Christ Presbyterian Academy), Sydney Ham (2019-20, Briarcrest Christian School), Cara Young (2018-19, Houston High School), and Jenna Kemp (2017-18, Houston 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, Murphy 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. Murphy 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.