

**SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Lily Boyden** of **Skyline High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Boyden is the second Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline 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 Boyden as Utah'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, Boyden 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 led the Eagles to a 20-0 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Boyden scored 34 goals and passed for 12 assists, and she netted two goals along with an assist in Skyline's 3-1 win over Lehi High in the state title game. The 2021 Deseret News Miss Soccer winner, she was also selected to participate in the 2021 High School All-American Game after playing just one year of high school soccer. She is ranked as the nation's No. 68 recruit in the Class of 2022 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Boyden's brother, Thomas, was the 2019-20 Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Player of the Year. She has volunteered locally preparing meal kits for the homeless, and she has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Lily has all the characteristics of an amazing soccer player," said Jamie Evans, head coach of Olympus High School. "She has incredible speed and agility, her technical skill is exceptional and her ability to lead is incredible. We could not stop her."

Boyden maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Washington 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.

Boyden joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Players of the Year Bizzy Arevalo (2020-21, Davis High School), Haven Empey (2019-20, American Fork High School), Caroline Stringfellow (2018-19, Syracuse High School), and Jamie Shepherd (2017-18, American Fork 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, Boyden 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. Boyden 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).