

**PARKERSBURG SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Samara Nunn** of **Parkersburg South High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Nunn is the second Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Parkersburg South 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 Nunn as West Virginia'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, Nunn 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-4 senior forward and midfielder scored 36 goals and passed for 18 assists this past season, leading the Patriots (18-3-2) to the Class AAA regional championship game. Nunn was the West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association Class AAA Player of the Year and a United Soccer Coaches All-South Region selection. She recorded 13 multi-goal games, including six hat tricks, and she concluded her prep soccer career with 87 goals and 37 assists.

Voted the 2021 Parkersburg South High Homecoming Queen, Nunn has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and by feeding the homeless at the Latrobe Street Mission. She has also donated her time as an assistant in the high school main office, and as a youth soccer coach. "Samara can play multiple positions and control the game from wherever she is on the field," said Ali Sadeghian, head coach of George Washington High School. "Her top speed is what separates her from opponents and it's hard to match."

Nunn has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Alcorn State University in Mississippi 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.

Nunn joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Graceylyn Hanna (2020-21, Wheeling Park High School), Sammie Brown (2019-20, Morgantown High School), McKenzie Moran (2018-19, St. Joseph Central Catholic High School), and Emilie Charles (2017-18, Cabell Midland 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, Nunn 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. Nunn 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.

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