

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 23, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Gabby Riley** of **Middletown High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Riley is the second Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Middletown 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 Riley as Delaware'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, Riley joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alyssa Thompson (2020-21, Harvard-Westlake School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.), Heather O'Reilly (2002-03 & 2001-02, East Brunswick High School, N.J.) and Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-4 junior midfielder and forward led the Cavaliers to a 15-2-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Riley recorded two hat tricks in the state tournament, including in the title game. She finished the season with 31 goals and 11 assists and enters her senior year as the school's record-holder in career goals (84) and assists (49).

Riley has volunteered locally as a "buddy" with Middletown High Schools's Special Olympics soccer team and for the Town of Townsend, helping to organize and prepare for town events. She also has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through National Honor Society, including school events, food drives and reading to elementary school students. "She's an extremely technical player and compliments those qualities with a very high-end soccer IQ and tactical awareness," said Justin Null, St. Georges Technical High School head coach. "She wows you with her ability to finish, and not just around the goal. She scored a couple of times on us from way outside the box."

Riley has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Delaware beginning in the fall of 2024.

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.

Riley joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year Maddie Schepers (2021-22, Saint Mark's High School), Caitlin St. Leger (2020-21, Caravel Academy), Paige Kenton (2019-20, Padua Academy), and Sheyenne Allen (2018-19, Charter School of Wilmington), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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).