BARTRAM TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 23, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Grace Ivey** of **Bartram Trail High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Ivey is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bartram Trail 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 Ivey as Florida'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, Ivey 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior midfielder led the Bears to a 21-0-2 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Ivey scored 19 goals and passed for a school single-season record 35 assists. Also the Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Soccer winner, she is a three-time First Team All-State selection. Ranked as the nation's No. 36 recruit in the Class of 2023 by PrepSoccer.com, she concluded her prep soccer career with 59 goals and 59 assists.

Ivey has volunteered locally with the special education program in the Clay County school district. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer and track coach. "Grace is a difference-maker on the field," said Amy Geltz, head coach of Bishop Moore High School. "She controls the center of the field and finds the pockets and space to get free. She has a great impact on the field and works hard on both sides of the field."

Ivey has maintained a weighted 4.63 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Texas A&M University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Two-time winner Ivey joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mia Asenjo (2020-21, Montverde Academy), Olivia Candelino (2019-20, The Bolles School), and Kamy Loustau (2018-19, St. Johns Country Day School), 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.