

**BOISE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Sammy Smith** of **Boise High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Smith is the fifth Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Boise 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 Smith as Idaho’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, Smith 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-5 junior midfielder and forward participated in the Under-17 Women’s World Cup as a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women’s National Team last October. Smith tied for second on the team with two goals in the tournament before Team USA’s shootout loss in the quarterfinals. For the Braves (17-1), Smith scored 16 goals and passed for nine assists while playing the first nine games of the 2022 season, which ended with Boise High School winning the Class 5A state title. The state’s 2020-21 Gatorade Girls Cross Country and Track & Field Player of the Year, Smith is ranked as the nation’s No. 15 recruit in the Class of 2024 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Also a national champion Nordic and cross-country skier, Smith is currently the youngest member of the U.S. Ski Team. She is co-founder and board member of GO BIG INC., which provides mentorship and resources to at-risk youth in Idaho. She has also donated her time as part of community beautification projects and as a youth tutor. “Sammy is dominant on and off the ball,” said Eric Simonsen, Smith’s club coach with the Boise Thorns. “She can play any position at the high school level. At will, she provides, she creates and she scores. Beyond that, she’s one of the best defending attacking positional players you’ll find.”

Smith maintained a weighted 4.24 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Stanford University 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Elliotte Kortus (2021-22, Lake City High School), Kelsey Oyler (2020-21 & 2019-20, Rocky Mountain High School), and Lauren Elwer (2018-19, Bishop Kelly High 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/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.