

**O'FALLON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Kiley McMinn** of **O'Fallon Township High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. McMinn is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from O'Fallon Township 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 McMinn as Illinois' 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, McMinn 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-8 senior midfielder and forward led the Panthers to a 21-3-1 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. McMinn scored 49 goals and passed for 10 assists, and netted the lone goal in double-overtime as O'Fallon beat Barrington High School, 1-0, in the state title game. McMinn also scored the game-winner for O'Fallon Township High School in the 2021 state championship game. The Illinois High School Coaches Association's Player of the Year, she is a 2023 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection.

McMinn has volunteered locally with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds beds for children with physical, mental and emotional support needs. She has also donated her time as a soccer coach for physically and intellectually challenged children. "Kiley is very hard to control defensively," said Abby Federmann, head coach of Edwardsville High School. "She really is a dynamic player who, when given the opportunity, rarely misses a shot or a chance to create a scoring opportunity."

McMinn has maintained a 4.01 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Marquette 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.

McMinn joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Brooke Miller (2021-22, Neuqua Valley High School), Riley Philbin (2020-21, Glenbrook North High School), and Emma Weaver (2019-20 & 2018-19, New Trier 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.