

**NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 **Zoey Mahoney** of **Northwest High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Mahoney is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Northwest 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 Mahoney as Iowa'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, Mahoney 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 senior midfielder and forward led the Wolves to a 17-2 record and the 3A state semifinals this past season. A Class 3A First-Team All-State selection, Mahoney recorded 20 goals and 16 assists to average 1.89 points per game. She was a unanimous pick for the All-Central Iowa Metropolitan League First Team.

Mahoney has volunteered locally with her church youth group as a nanny for a family with three elementary school-aged children, and also pet-sits for neighbors and friends. In addition, she's donated her time to Meals from the Heartland, an organization dedicated to feeding the needy. "Mahoney is good with both feet, making it tough to deny her attacking opportunities," said Chris Allen, Centennial High School head coach. "We specifically game-planned for her in our state quarterfinal game, and she managed to give us headaches despite our efforts to mark her out of the game. She interchanges positions well, which is one of the reasons for our struggle with her. If we deny her shots, she gets dangerous crosses in."

Mahoney has maintained a 4.16 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Drake 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.

Mahoney joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year Avery Horner (2021-22, Bettendorf High School), Kenzie Roling (2020-21, Waverly-Shell Rock High School), and Abigail Santana (2019-20 & 2018-19, Linn-Mar 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.