ST. HENRY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Amanda Schlueter** of **St. Henry District High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Schlueter is the second Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Henry District 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 Schlueter as Kentucky'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, Schlueter 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 scored 35 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Crusaders (13-6-2) to the 9th Region Tournament semifinals. A 2022 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, Schlueter scored at least one goal in all 17 games she played for St. Henry Distrcit High Schol and she participated in the High School All-American Game in December. Ranked as the nation's No. 65 recruit in the Class of 2023 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she was a First Team All-State honoree in her only year playing high school soccer after exclusively playing club soccer prior to that.

Schlueter has volunteered locally at a food bank, and she has donated her time as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "Mandy was a force to be reckoned with in northern Kentucky," said Chris Norris, head coach of Highlands High School. "She is physical, has great skill and knows what to do with the ball."

Schlueter has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at The Ohio State 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.

Schlueter joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ella Sanchez (2021-22, Ballard High School), Mallory Glass (2020-21, Sacred Heart Academy), and Anna Haddock (2019-20 & 2018-19, Greenwood 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 studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.