

**ROSEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Taylor Heimerl** of **Rosemount High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Heimerl is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rosemount 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 Heimerl as Minnesota'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, Heimerl 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-10 senior forward and midfielder led the Irish to a 21-1 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Heimerl scored 20 goals, passed for 18 assists and she scored the game's only goal in Rosemount High School's win over Edina High School in the state final. The Pioneer Press East Metro Player of the Year, Heimerl was also a United Soccer Coaches All-American selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with 43 goals and 46 assists.

A drug education teacher for sixth graders, Heimerl has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children and at a senior living facility. She has also donated her time as part of multiple community service initiatives through her school's National Honor Society. "Taylor was a great player for Rosemount," said Mike Huber, head coach of Stillwater High School. "She's tall, strong and a very smart player with the ball. Rosemount was a great team overall, and Taylor brought their team up to another level."

Heimerl has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Heimerl joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Maddie Dahlien (2021-22, Edina High School), Khyah Harper (2020-21, Centennial High School), Paige Peltier (2019-20, Cretin-Derham Hall), and Megan Plaschko (2018-19, Eagan 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.