

**LIBERTY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 23, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Megan Hinnenkamp** of **Liberty North High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Hinnenkamp is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Liberty North 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 Hinnenkamp as Missouri'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, Hinnenkamp 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-7 senior forward led the Eagles to a 22-0 record and the Class 4 state championship this past season. Hinnenkamp scored 26 goals and passed for three assists, and netted a hat trick, including the overtime game-winner, in North's 4-3 win over Nerinx Hall in the state title game. The Class 4, Region 4 Offensive Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 73 goals and 28 assists.

The vice president of the Liberty North High School National Honor Society, Hinnenkamp donated her time by creating a Spanish language lesson and cultural activity for a local elementary school. She has volunteered locally wrapping and delivering gifts to families in need at Christmas. She has also served as a youth soccer coach and mentor. "Megan is dynamic, fast and dangerous with the ball at her feet," said Jon Reed, head coach of Smithville High School. "She's consistently a threat and covers a lot of ground on the field."

Hinnenkamp has maintained a weighted 4.18 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Hinnenkamp joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Grace Bindbeutel (2021-22 & 2019-20, St. Dominic High School), Rylee Howard (2020-21, Lafayette High School), and Lily Farkas (2018-19, St. Teresa's Academy), 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).