

**GALLATIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Olivia Collins** of **Gallatin High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Collins is the first Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gallatin 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 Collins as Montana'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, Collins 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior forward led the Raptors to a 15-0-2 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Collins scored 42 goals, passed for nine assists and tallied nine goals in Gallatin's three-game postseason run to the state title in just the third year of the school's existence. A three-time Eastern AA Division Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 88 goals and 23 assists.

Collins has volunteered locally with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Big Sky Country and as part of community beautification projects. "Olivia Collins exceeded all expectations for this season," said Erika Cannon, head coach of Bozeman High School. "As an opposing coach, you like to think that no one player can beat you, but Olivia was definitely that one player. She is a pure goal-scorer who creates great opportunities for herself and she finishes them almost every time she gets in front of goal."

Collins has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Boise State 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.

Two-time winner Collins joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kenzie Williams (2020-21, Glacier High School), Halle Labert (2019-20, Skyview High School), and Jordan Roe (2018-19, Skyview 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.