

**NICHOLS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Linda Ullmark** of **Nichols School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Ullmark is the first Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Nichols 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 Ullmark as New York'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, Ullmark 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 junior midfielder scored 42 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Vikings (12-6-1) to the championship game of the Monsignor Martin League tournament. Ullmark scored in 15 of the 16 games she played, including 11 multi-goal games. The Class B Player of the Year, she attended an invite-only training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team earlier this month. She concluded her junior year with 76 goals and 38 assists in her prep soccer career.

Ullmark has volunteered locally teaching physically and intellectually challenged children how to ice skate. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Linda is an incredible player," said Emily Brook, head coach of the Lewiston-Porter School. "In the one game we played against her this past season, she scored all [eight] of the goals for the Vikings [single-handedly winning an 8-5 result]. She's calm on the ball, especially in 1-on-1 situations. She's a natural-born finisher and has great speed. She's able to find space between defenders and makes excellent runs."

Ullmark has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2024.

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.

Ullmark joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lia Howard (2021-22, Massapequa High School), Shae O'Rourke (2020-21, St. Mary's High School), and Chloe DeLyser (2019-20 & 2018-19, Marion 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.

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