

**NORMAN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Narissa Fults** of **Norman North High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Fults is the third Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Norman 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 Fults as Oklahoma'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, Fults 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-9 junior forward led the Timberwolves to 17 straight victories and a trip to the 6A state championship game this past season. Fults finished the season with 32 goals and 26 assists and was named The Oklahoman All-City Player of the Year. She was also the Central Oklahoma Athletic Conference Player of the Year.

Fults has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee. She also has donated her time ringing a bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign during the holidays. "Narissa is always working, and has excellent ball control," said Norman High School head coach Kevin Chesley. "Her first touch is top-notch, and she puts the ball where she wants it almost every time she touches the ball. She can try to take defenses on by herself sometimes, but is excellent at getting her teammates involved as well."

Fults has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Fults joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Players of the Year Samantha Allen (2021-22, Noble High School), Makenzie Malham (2020-21, Union High School), Madison Tokarchik (2019-20, Bishop Kelley High School), and Ashton Gordon (2018-19, Booker T. Washington 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.