

**PINEWOOD PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Jessica Osborne** of **Pinewood Preparatory School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Osborne is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pinewood Preparatory 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 Osborne as South Carolina'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, Osborne 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 6-foot senior defender led the Panthers to a 20-3 record and the South Carolina Independent School Association Class AAAA state championship this past season. Osborne scored 21 goals, passed for 34 assists and anchored a defense that allowed just 10 goals en route to recording 16 shutouts. A member of England's Under-18 Women's National Team, she is a two-time SCISA Region II Player of the Year.

Osborne has volunteered as a teacher's aide in the first grade classroom at Pinewood Prep. A member of her school's Blue Crew, a student-run fan support group, she has also donated her time as a local youth soccer coach and referee. "She's definitely unmatched as a player—not only physically, but in decision-making, touch and understanding of the game," said Hope Walters, head coach of Porter-Gaud School. "Jessica is a big reason why they are three-time state champs."

Osborne has maintained a weighted 4.94 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Auburn 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.

Osborne joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Autumn Cayelli (2021-22, T.L. Hanna High School), Alarie Hodge (2020-21, James Island Charter High School), Miya Poplin (2019-20, Hilton Head Island High School), and Caroline Conti (2018-19, J.L. Mann 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.