

**SOUTHLAKE CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Kennedy Fuller** of **Southlake Carroll High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Fuller is the second Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Southlake Carroll 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 Fuller as Texas' 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, Fuller 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-5 sophomore midfielder scored 55 goals and passed for 26 assists this past season, leading the Dragons (26-1) to the Conference 6A state championship game. A two-time Dallas Morning News Player of the Year, Fuller missed her team's final three postseason games because she was attending a training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-16 Women's National Team. Ranked as the nation's No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2024 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she concluded her sophomore year with 81 goals and 41 assists.

A member of the National Junior Honor Society and the school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has presented at local elementary schools about academic excellence. She has also volunteered on behalf of G&J Ministries, which provides sanctuary for those in need, as well as with Count Your Blessings, a faith-based retail store. In addition, she's donated her time as a member of the White Chapel Church Youth Group. "Kennedy is a remarkable, talented player—she's just special," said Cory Oglesby, head coach of Keller High School. "When she has the ball at her feet, she makes things happen. She is just a dynamic player."

Fuller has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She plans on graduating high school a year early and 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.

Two-time winner Fuller joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Sydney Becerra (2020-21, Flower Mound High School), Jillian Martinez (2019-20, Madison High School), and Barbara Olivieri (2018-19, Tompkins 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.