

**MORGANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Gracie Brown** of **Morgantown High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Brown is the fourth Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Morgantown 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 Brown as West Virginia'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, Brown 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-4 junior midfielder led the Mohigans to a 20-1-1 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Brown scored 23 goals and passed for 17 assists, including one of each in Morgantown's 2-1, overtime win over Parkersburg South High in the state final, earning West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association's Class AAA Player of the Year honors in the process. The younger sister of 2019-20 Gatorade State Player of the Year Sammie Brown, she concluded her junior year with 43 goals and 36 assists in her prep soccer career.

Brown has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her school's Key Club, and she's donated her time as a youth soccer coach and mentor. "Gracie dominates the midfield," said Stirlin Rivers, head coach of Morgantown High School. "Her technical ability is top-notch. She is not a selfish player, and she's an amazing leader."

Brown has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Samara Nunn (2021-22, Parkersburg South High School), Graceylyn Hanna (2020-21, Wheeling Park High School), Sammie Brown (2019-20, Morgantown High School), and McKenzie Moran (2018-19, St. Joseph Central Catholic 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.