MUSKEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Anna Sikorski** of **Muskego High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Sikorski is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Muskego 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 Sikorski as Wisconsin'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, Sikorski 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-7 junior forward and midfielder led the Warriors to a 19-1-2 record and a second straight Division I state championship this past season. Sikorski finished with 29 goals, including two in Muskego's semifinals' win along with one in the title game. She was named the Classic 8 Conference Player of the Year.

Sikorski has volunteered locally ringing a bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign during the holidays. She also has donated her time organizing a food drive in her neighborhood that benefitted the Muskego Food Pantry. "Anna is an incredibly talented player," said Mukwonago High School head coach Dan Montanye. "She's so smart with her movement off the ball and is very deceptive when she has possession. She's always in control and makes everyone around her better. She does all the simple things right, while still being willing and able to pull off the spectacular at a moment's notice."

Sikorski has maintained a 3.56 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Kentucky beginning in the fall of 2024.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Sikorski joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kayla Budish (2021-22, Brookfield Central High School), Maggie Starker (2020-21, Whitefish Bay High School), Lauren Brown (2019-20, Catholic Memorial High School), and Emma Nagel (2018-19, Bay Port 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 studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.