

**ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Alexa Pino** of **St. Joseph High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Pino is the sixth Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Pino as Connecticut's best high school girls soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Aly Wagner (1997-98, Presentation High School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.) and Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5 junior forward led the Cadets to a 22-0-1 record and a second straight Class LL state championship this past season. Pino scored 39 goals and passed for 19 assists, including one of each in St. Joseph's 3-1 win over Notre Dame Catholic High School in the state final. A two-time United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, Pino was named the GameTimeCT Player of the Year and she's a three-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her junior year with 97 goals and 47 assists in her prep soccer career.

Pino has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit Al's Angels, an organization that provides support for families and children in need. She has also donated her time with her school's Unified Basketball program, serving physically and intellectually challenged youth athletes. "Pino is the type of player who any time she has the ball, she can score," said Angelo Tsingerliotis, head coach of Brien McMahon High School. "Left or right foot, she is extremely dangerous. It's a lot more difficult to create a game plan to take her out of a game than it is anyone else."

Pino has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of South Carolina beginning in the fall of 2025.

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 Pino joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mary Lundregan (2021-22, St. Joseph High School), Maddie Fried (2020-21, St. Joseph High School) and Chloe Landers (2019-20, Glastonbury High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.