

BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Roos Van Roekel** of **Barrington High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Van Roekel is the second Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Barrington 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 Van Roekel as Illinois’ 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 6-foot senior defender led the Fillies (19-2-2) to league, regional and sectional championships this past season. Van Roekel scored 18 goals and passed for 5 assists, leading a defense that produced 16 clean sheets. She led her team in scoring as a center back and was named the Illinois High School Coaches Association’s Player of the Year. She was also a 2024 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection.

Van Roekel has volunteered with the Barrington Buddies program, supporting long-lasting, special friendships with physically and intellectually challenged youth while partnering in crafts, games and other activities. She’s also a member of the Key Club at her school, which is the oldest and largest community service organization for high school students. The club aims to foster leadership and underscore the importance of giving back. “Roos was by far the best defender we saw this season,” said Steve Keller, head coach of Fremd High School. “She’s an imposing figure with an incredibly strong right foot who reads the game extremely well. Roos anchored a defense that was nearly impossible to score on. Great in the air and deadly on set pieces, she’s the type of player you build a team around.”

Van Roekel has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Loyola University Chicago 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.

Van Roekel joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kiley McMinn (2022-23, O’Fallon Township High School), Brooke Miller (2021-22, Neuqua Valley High School), Riley Philbin (2020-21, Glenbrook North High School) and Emma Weaver (2019-20, New Trier 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.