

## **BETTENDORF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 20, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Carson Bohonek** of **Bettendorf High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Bohonek is the third Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bettendorf 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 Bohonek as Iowa'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 5-foot-4 junior forward led the Bulldogs (18-3) to the Class 3A state title this past season. Bohonek scored a school single-season record 46 goals, passed for 11 assists and was named captain of the Class 3A All-Tournament Team. She netted a hat trick in the state championship game and finished with five goals and an assist in Bettendorf's tournament run. A two-time First Team All-State selection and an ECNL National Selection Game invitee during club season, she also owns Bettendorf's 100-meter dash record with a time of 12.22 seconds.

Bohonek has volunteered locally on behalf of her church community, performing childcare duties for toddlers on Sundays and during summer vacation bible school. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer referee with Bettendorf Parks and Recreation in addition to coaching at winter youth soccer camps. "As an opposing coach, I think Carson presents a unique challenge to stop her remarkable skill set," said Andrew Piotter, head coach at Pleasant Valley High School. "Carson has developed into such a dynamic player that she's no longer limited to only one way of beating you. If you play her tight, she'll use her power and quickness to turn on a dime and you'll be left in the dust. If you choose to lay off her, she'll square you up and blow by you with top-level speed. Carson is as talented and composed a forward as any male or female athlete I've seen on a soccer field and, unfortunately for us, she's only a junior."

Bohonek, who attends Morning Star Academy but plays for Bettendorf as part of a co-op arrangement, has maintained a 3.2 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Nebraska beginning 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.

Bohonek joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year Zoey Mahoney (2022-23, Northwest High School), Avery Horner (2021-22, Bettendorf High School), Kenzie Roling (2020-21, Waverly-Shell Rock High School) and Abigail Santana (2019-20, Linn-Mar 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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