

OLATHE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Jacy Hackler** of **Olathe Northwest High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Hackler is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe Northwest 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 Hackler as Kansas’ 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-8 freshman forward led the Ravens (15-4) to the Class 6A quarterfinals this past season. Hackler scored 25 goals and passed for seven assists, finding the back of the net in 15 of her team’s 19 games. Ranked as the nation’s No. 135 recruit by TopDrawerSoccer—No. 6 in the Heartland Region—and No. 3 among PrepSoccer’s Best KS/MO forwards, she was a United Soccer Coaches All-Region selection. Hackler owns her school’s single-season goals record and scored the US Youth Soccer Association’s National Goal of the Year in 2023. A USSF Youth National Team Talent Identification Camp invitee, she’s also a member of Olathe Northwest’s 2024 KSHSAA Girls Track & Field 6A state championship team, clocking a school-record time of 25.53 in the 200-meter dash this spring.

Hackler has volunteered locally assembling bags of food for both the homeless and for families who qualify for free or reduced-fee lunches at school. She has also donated her time with youth camps through both Legends and through KC Athletics, and she’s also participated in the Best Buddies program, supporting students with intellectual and physical challenges. “Jacy is one of the most talented players we’ve ever had in our program and she hasn’t yet maxed out the enormous potential she possesses,” said Chris Graham, head coach at Olathe Northwest High School. “Her combination of raw athleticism, technical ability and vision to read the game make her an absolute threat every time she steps on the field. Each team we faced focused on marking her out of the game and she constantly faced double- and triple-teams throughout the season. But she still managed to shatter the single-season scoring record at the school. For any player to have the impact that Jacy had is impressive, but to do it as a freshman makes it even more so.”

Hackler has maintained a 4.14 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Hackler joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sydney Watts (2022-23 & 2021-22, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Grace O’Keefe (2020-21, St. Thomas Aquinas High School) and Sophia Stram (2019-20, Bishop Miege 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.

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