

**BETHLEHEM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Carlie Thurmond** of **Bethlehem High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Thurmond is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bethlehem 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 Thurmond as Kentucky’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-7 senior forward led the Banshees to a 22-4-2 record and the state championship this past season. Thurmond scored 33 goals and passed for 20 assists, netting two scores in Bethlehem’s 4-3 win over Sacred Heart Academy in the state final to earn tournament MVP honors. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she compiled nine goals and seven assists in the team’s eight-game postseason run to the title and she concluded her prep soccer career with a school-record 150 goals.

Thurmond has volunteered locally with Handy Hands, a program that benefits the elderly, and as a youth soccer referee. She has also donated her time supporting Christmas train rides at the Kentucky Railway Museum. “Carlie is something else,” said Ken Burke, head coach of South Oldham High School. “So athletic, so dangerous—she scored on us and we didn’t give her much to look at. She got one opportunity and buried it.”

Thurmond has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Morehead State University 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.

Thurmond joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Players of the Year Amanda Schlueter (2022-23, St. Henry District High School), Ella Sanchez (2021-22, Ballard High School), Mallory Glass (2020-21, Sacred Heart Academy) and Anna Haddock (2019-20, Greenwood 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.