

COR JESU ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Maddie DiMaria** of **Cor Jesu Academy** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. DiMaria is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cor Jesu Academy.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes DiMaria as Missouri'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 freshman forward and midfielder led the Chargers to a 21-4 record and the Class 3 state championship this past season. DiMaria scored 30 goals and passed for 21 assists, netting two scores and recording an assist in Cor Jesu's 3-0 win over Rockwood Summit High in the state final. The Missouri Soccer Coaches Association's Class 3 Player of the Year, DiMaria is a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-15 Women's National Team. She's ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2027 by PrepSoccer.com.

A member of the Cor Jesu choir, she has volunteered on behalf of Christian Action Reaching Everyone and the Special Needs Soccer Association. Also a member of her school's Green Team Club dedicated to raising environmental awareness, she has served as a Cor Jesu Shadow Guide for prospective students. "Maddie DiMaria's historic freshman season was a perfect example of what makes her such a special talent," said J.R. Eskilson, National Analyst for PrepSoccer.com. "Ruthlessly efficient on the attack and fiercely competitive, she did what her team needed in order to win, supplying goals, assists and everything else to help her side hang a state championship banner. DiMaria's play frustrated opposing coaches as she was always a step or three ahead of the competition. Driven to improve her game, DiMaria showcased goal-scoring ability with her left foot this season that made many question which one was her dominant side. She was utterly unstoppable on the pitch."

DiMaria has maintained a unweighted 4.18 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.

DiMaria joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Megan Hinnenkamp (2022-23, Liberty North High School), Grace Bindbeutel (2021-22 & 2019-20, St. Dominic High School) and Rylee Howard (2020-21, Lafayette 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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