

**PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Blane McElroy** of **Providence Day School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. McElroy is the second Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Providence Day 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 McElroy as North Carolina'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-9 junior midfielder led the Chargers (24-1-1) to the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association 4A state championship this past season and the No. 1 national ranking on MaxPreps. McElroy scored with 39 goals and passed for 31 assists, averaging 2.7 points per game. She was also named the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year.

McElroy has volunteered locally with Tigers Got Goals, a summer camp she co-founded to benefit the Soccer Foundation of Charlotte, an organization that provides after-school soccer and literacy programs for underserved communities. She has also helped deliver several soccer clinics through Freedom School Partners, a summertime literacy program for under-resourced youth. "She excels in all phases of the game in the midfield and final third," said Bucky McCarley, head coach at Myers Park High School. "She distributes the ball anywhere in the attacking half of the field, moves off the ball well, attacks individually with the ball and makes off-ball runs into the box. She's a stud and infuriating to play against."

McElroy has maintained a weighted 4.32 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Purdue University beginning in 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.

McElroy joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Suarez (2022-23 & 2021-22, Ardrey Kell High School), Asha Means (2020-21, Lake Norman Charter High School) and Ayden Yates (2019-20, Lake Norman Charter 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.