WANDO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH 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 **Kylie Cino** of **Wando High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Cino is the second Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Wando 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 Cino as South 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-6 senior midfielder scored 23 goals and passed for 18 assists this past season, leading the Warriors (19-3) to the Class 5A state tournament quarterfinals. A three-time state champion, Cino was the 2023 South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Soccer Class 5A Player of the Year. She concluded her prep soccer career with 123 goals and 107 assists.

Cino holds a job at an area hair salon and she's volunteered locally on behalf of Carolina Boxer Rescue. She has also donated her time to the Special Olympics and as a mentor for special needs students at Wando High. "Kylie's work rate, coachability, technical ability, soccer IQ and mental toughness shape the extremely talented and driven player that she is," said Shannon Champ, head coach of Wando High School. "She always strives to better herself as a player and leader."

Cino has maintained a weighted 4.49 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of South Carolina this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Cino joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jessica Osborne (2022-23, Pinewood Preparatory School), Autumn Cayelli (2021-22, T.L. Hanna High School), Alarie Hodge (2020-21, James Island Charter High School) and Miya Poplin (2019-20, Hilton Head Island 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.