

**POPE JOHN PAUL II PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Katie Shea Collins** of **Pope John Paul II Preparatory School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Collins is the second Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pope John Paul II Preparatory 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 Collins as Tennessee’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-2 senior forward scored 44 goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Knights (12-2-2) to the Division II, Class AA state quarterfinals. Collins had a direct hand in 50 of her team’s 56 goals on the year. She missed the state quarterfinal while earning a bronze medal at the 2023 Pan American Games in Chile as a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-19 Women’s National Team. She earned a call-up to the Under-20 Women’s National Team in June. She concluded her prep soccer career with 106 goals and 31 assists in 47 games.

Collins has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity and as a peer mentor to students with special needs. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer coach. “Katie Shea is one of the most amazing players I have ever coached against,” said Meggie Lucas, head coach of Harpeth Hall School. “Her skill with the ball is unmatched, her patience off the ball is wise beyond her years and her drive and competitive nature make her a force to be reckoned with.”

Collins has maintained a weighted 4.17 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 [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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Players of the Year Brinley Murphy (2022-23 & 2021-22, Bearden High School), Caroline Betts (2020-21, Christ Presbyterian Academy) and Sydney Ham (2019-20, Briarcrest Christian 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.