

**THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Jaden Thomas** of **The Hockaday School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Thomas is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from The Hockaday 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 Thomas as Texas' 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 scored 39 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Daisies (15-2) to the Southwest Preparatory Conference Class 4A Tournament championship game. Thomas scored at least one goal in all 17 games with 13 multi-goal games and eight hat tricks. Ranked as the nation's No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2024 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she concluded her prep soccer career with 64 goals and 22 assists.

A member of Hockaday's Black Student Union, Thomas has volunteered locally on behalf of Feeding the Need, which benefits the homeless in the Dallas area. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Coaching against Jaden, you can only hope to slow her down because you cannot stop her," said Michael Dawdy, head coach of Bishop Lynch High School. "How Jaden was going in the game was going to determine the outcome. She was very fun to watch and a nightmare to coach against."

Thomas has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Stanford 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.

Thomas joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School), Sydney Becerra (2020-21, Flower Mound High School) and Jillian Martinez (2019-20, Madison 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.