LINN-MAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Abi Roberts** of **Linn-Mar High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade lowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Roberts as Iowa's best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Morgan Gautrat (2010-11, Frederica Academy, Ga.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.), Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-9 senior forward led the Lions to a 17-4 record and the Class 3A state final this past season. Roberts scored 41 goals and passed for 17 assists, earning All-Tournament and All-State honors. In five postseason games from the Region 7 semifinals on, she scored eight goals and recorded two assists. Also named to the 2025 Des Moines Register All-Iowa Elite Team, she anchored her club FC United's run to the US Club Soccer National Cup title in 2024, earning All-Tournament recognition in the process.

An active member of her school's SODA Club (Students Opposed to Drugs and Alcohol), Roberts has volunteered locally on behalf of the City of Robins Civic Club for more than a decade. She has also donated her time coaching and instructing youth players for three years running as part of FC United's Little Strikers program. In addition, she holds down a part-time job at Crumbl cookies in Cedar Rapids. "Abi was one of the most dynamic players we went up against this year," said Allison Sanyi, head coach at Bettendorf High School. She performed in all the big games and they played a competitive schedule. She was a dynamic forward who didn't rely on speed alone, but also her physicality and technique."

Roberts has maintained an unweighted 4.13 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at North Dakota State University 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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