WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Sascha Beasley** of **Walt Whitman High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Maryland 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 Beasley as Maryland'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-5 senior defender led the Vikings to an 18-0 record and a fourth straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Beasley anchored a defense that allowed just nine goals and posted 10 shutouts, including three consecutive clean sheets to close out the state tournament. The Washington Post All-Met Player of the Year, Beasley also chipped in offensively with four goals and four assists. She was a two-time First Team All-State selection and a four-year starter.

Beasley has volunteered for Soccer Without Borders and has donated her time locally as a youth soccer coach and camp counselor. She also completed an internship at Healthy Baller, a sports performance and physical therapy center. "The best thing I can say about Sascha is that she has made my life miserable for four years," said Peg Keiller, head coach of Quince Orchard High School. "She does not have a weakness. She is athletic, strong in the air, reads opposing offenses well and is a ridiculous one-on-one defender. Her impact is immeasurable."

Beasley has maintained a 3.76 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of Wisconsin 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 facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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