

**UNITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Ava Lutke** of **Unity Christian High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Michigan 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 Lutke as Michigan'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-7 senior forward led the Crusaders to a 22-0-2 record and the Division 2 state championship this past season. Lutke scored 29 goals and passed for 29 assists, including a one-goal, two-assist effort in a 7-0 win over Huron High School in the state final. A two-time Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association Dream Team member, she concluded her prep soccer career with 104 goals and 83 assists.

Lutke has volunteered locally at the Revive Resale Store by unloading boxes and organizing displays on the showroom floor. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer and volleyball coach in addition to participating in multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Ava is one of the most competitive athletes I have seen in my 26-year coaching career," said Ben Hondorp, head coach of Zeeland West High School. "She is an amazing athlete, has a really high soccer IQ and reads the game very well. And she has a motor that simply does not quit."

Lutke has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Michigan State 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 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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