SUMRALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Addie Siders** of **Sumrall High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Mississippi 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 Siders as Mississippi'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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior defender and midfielder scored 16 goals and passed for 30 assists this past season, leading the Bobcats (18-5-2) to the Class 4A state quarterfinals. The Region 7-4A Player of the Year, she was also a 2024 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree. A six-year starter, she concluded her prep soccer career with 87 goals and 84 assists.

The 2023 winner of the Sumrall Character Award, Siders has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the BETA Club and the Auxiliary Crown Club. The class reporter for the Sumrall High School Student Government Association, she has also donated her time at a camp for children with disabilities and as a youth soccer coach. "Addie is great on offense and there are plenty of highlights to show that," said Viron Kersh, head coach of Purvis High School. "I don't think she gets enough credit defensively. She reads the game extremely well and is great at being in the right place before plays develop. She always makes it seem like Sumrall has an extra player in the midfield."

Siders has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of Southern Mississippi 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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