FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 Olivia Stark of Faith Lutheran High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Nevada 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 Stark as Nevada'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-4 junior forward led the Crusaders to a 17-1-5 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Stark scored 17 goals and passed for 11 assists, earning the Golden Boot award for Class 5A. She recorded a goal and an assist in Faith Lutheran High School's 3-2 over Liberty High School in the state title game. The 5A Offensive Player of the Year, she is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Stark has volunteered locally with Just One Project, an organization that supports families in need. She has also donated her time to the Miracle League, where she teaches kids with special needs soccer skills. "Olivia Stark is a fantastic player," said Pedram Mahinpey, head coach of Palo Verde High School. "She is very well-rounded and technical and has great pace. She's a very dangerous attacking player who can create opportunities for herself by beating players one-on-one in space and she can score from distance with a terrific shot. She also has the ability to create opportunities for her teammates."

Stark has maintained a 3.99 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has verbally agreed to play soccer on scholarship at University of California Irvine beginning in the fall of 2026.

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>.

###