

**CUMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Emma Kucal** of **Cumberland High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Rhode Island 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 Kucal as Rhode Island’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).

Also the state’s 2022-23 Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-3 senior forward scored 33 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Clippers (15-2-3) to the Division I state championship game. Kucal, who missed the entire 2023 season with a knee injury, recorded a point in 19 of 20 games in her final year. A three-time United Soccer Coaches All-American selection and a three-time First Team All-State honoree, she concluded her prep soccer career with 77 goals and 47 assists.

A member of the Cumberland High School student government, Kucal received a leadership award for outstanding service as a sophomore for her work with the Helping Hands Club. She has volunteered locally with the Hotel for Homeless Dogs and as a youth soccer coach. “Since day one, Emma has been a complete player with the ability to score and assist other players,” said John Hoxsie, head coach of Cumberland High School. “She is extremely unselfish and always works to include her teammates on the field. She’s a coach’s dream.”

Kucal has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of New Hampshire 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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