

**HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Ellett Smith** of **Houston High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Tennessee 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 Smith as Tennessee'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 midfielder led the Mustangs to a 22-0 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Smith scored 26 goals and passed for 18 assists, including setting up a goal in Houston's 2-1 shootout win over Bearden High School in the state final. The Memphis Commercial Appeal All-Metro Player of the Year, she was a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection and participated in the High School All-American Game in South Carolina last December.

Smith shares in the responsibility of caring for her two young cousins, who lost their father recently in an airplane crash. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth soccer coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Ellett Smith is easily on the Mount Rushmore of players I have coached and that includes all five of the previous Gatorade Players of the Year I've had," said David Wolff, head coach of Houston High School. "Her play is at the highest level from a skills standpoint. She's also a great teammate. She makes all the players around her better."

Smith maintained a 4.26 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Vanderbilt University this fall. She graduated from high school in December and attended classes in Nashville this past spring semester.

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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