MILTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Holley MacLellan** of **Milton High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Vermont 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 MacLellan as Vermont'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-5 senior midfielder and forward led the Yellowjackets to a 17-1 record and the Division II state championship this past season. MacLellan scored 27 goals and passed for 14 assists, netting both goals as Milton High School beat Mount Abraham Union High School, 2-0, in the state title game. MacLellan also captained the school's ice hockey team, leading Milton High School to the state final in 2023. She is the only Vermont prep girl to be named a 2024 United Soccer Coaches All-American.

A member of the National Honor Society and Math Honor Society, MacLellan also serves on the school's athletic leadership council. She has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the NHS. "Holley is the most complete player in Vermont girls high school soccer," said Dustin Hess, head coach of Mount Mansfield Union High School. "She has all of the physical and mental skills to dominate and lead. She's excellent on the dribble, can find brilliant passes, can shoot any time and is willing to do the work on the defensive side of the ball."

MacLellan has maintained a 4.34 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Stonehill College 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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