MORGANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Ariana Borneo** of **Morgantown High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia 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 Borneo as West Virginia'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 4-foot-11 senior midfielder and defender scored 19 goals and passed for 22 assists this past season, leading the Mohigans (17-3-2) to the Class AAA state semifinals. A member of the Trinidad & Tobago Under-20 Women's National Team, she is also a member of the player pool for that country's senior national team. A two-time Class AAA First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 43 goals and 40 assists.

Borneo has volunteered locally with the Morgantown High School Boosters Club and has also donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Ariana is exceptionally skilled and versatile, capable of playing any position," said Ali Sadeghian, head coach of George Washington High School. "She is incredibly athletic with speed, strength and a high soccer IQ."

Borneo has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Ashland University (Ohio) 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>.

###