

**MUSKEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE  
WISCONSIN 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 **Jessica Fernau of Muskego High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Wisconsin 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 Fernau as Wisconsin'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).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-4 senior midfielder and forward had led the Warriors to a 19-0-2 record and the Division 1 state semifinals this season on the heels of the team's Sectional 4 championship. Fernau scored 21 goals and passed for 17 assists through 21 games. The 2025 Classic 8 Conference Player of the Year, she was named Player of the Game at last year's Division 1 state final. A National Academy League Talent ID invitee, she led her Forge Futsal Academy team to second place at nationals in 2023.

Fernau has volunteered on behalf of the Muskego Food Pantry, the Special Olympics and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with The Ridge Community Church. She served as the historian for her school's Student Council Executive Board and on the Principal's Cabinet and has also donated her time as a Spanish-language tutor and youth soccer coach. "Jess is an incredibly hard-working and coachable student-athlete," said Muskego High School head coach Lance Matthews. "She strives to bring her best into anything she does, on and off the soccer field. Throughout her high school journey, she's had more than her fair share of setbacks with injuries, but she's found a way to embrace the discomfort and bring her best self into every arena. As the captain of our team this year, she's been incredibly humble and caring, but most importantly, holds herself and those around her to a very high standard."

Fernau has maintained a 4.47 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Ball State University 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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