

**MADISON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Jillian Martinez of Madison High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Martinez is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Martinez as Texas's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Martinez joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lallas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-3 senior forward and midfielder scored 39 goals and passed for nine assists this spring, leading the Mavericks to a 21-1 record before the season was canceled. In Martinez's only season of high school soccer, Madison won its first district title in 20 years. A 2019 United Soccer Coaches Youth All-American for her play with Lonestar Soccer Club in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy, she is ranked as the nation's No. 40 recruit in the Class of 2020 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

A member of her school's student council, Martinez has volunteered locally with an animal rescue shelter and has donated her time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through the Madison High Interact Club. "Jillian's movement off the ball was the biggest influence in the game," said Eric Stolhandske, head coach of Legacy of Educational Excellence High School. "She showed a very impressive skill set, was very quick and very quick of mind. But it was her movement above all else that gave our defense fits."

Martinez has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at UCLA.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Martinez joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Barbara Olivieri (2018-19, Tompkins High School), Grace Collins (2017-18, Memorial High School), Diana Ordonez (2016-17, Prosper High School), Cyera Hintzen (2015-16, SacHigh Schoole High School) and Jordie Harr (2014-15 & 2013-14, SacHigh Schoole High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).