

**MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Isabel Smith** of **Mountain Brook High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Smith is the second Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Brook 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 Smith as Alabama'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, Smith joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (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-7 senior midfielder scored 31 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Spartans (13-5-1) to the Class 6A quarterfinals. Smith is a two-time First Team Super All-State selection and a First Team All-Metro honoree. She was also a member of the U.S. Women's U18 National Team player pool in 2021.

A devoted member of her church youth group, Smith has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, a homeless shelter, youth soccer programs and the Night to Shine prom experience for special needs students. "Isabel Smith is a tremendous person and leader, and one of the best players this state has ever seen," said Will Partridge, head coach at Hoover High. "Any time the ball touches her foot, you almost stop in your tracks in awe of what she could do with it."

Smith has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Indiana 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 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Players of the Year Haley Duca (2020-21, Chelsea High School), Morgan White (2019-20, Westminster School at Oak Mountain), Tara Katz (2018-19, Montgomery Academy), and Jasmine Greene (2017-18, Spain Park High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Smith has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Smith is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

###