

**HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Amelia White** of **Homestead High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. White is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Homestead 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 White as Indiana'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, White 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-3 senior forward and midfielder led the Spartans to a 22-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. White scored 25 goals and passed for 15 assists, including a goal in Homestead's 2-1 win over Carmel High in the state final. The Indiana Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year, White is ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2022 by TopDrawerSoccer.com. A Second Team All-State selection as a freshman, she concluded her prep soccer career with 52 goals and 31 assists, having played only two seasons at the scholastic level.

White has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "We were the only team to hold Amelia without a goal or an assist in a game this year, but that's because our entire game plan was to shut her down," said Jon Hoover, head coach of Warsaw Community High School. "But in doing so, we couldn't stop her from creating opportunities for her teammates, and they still won the game."

White has maintained a weighted 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Penn 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 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.

White joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Quincy McMahon (2020-21, Guerin Catholic High School), Addie Chester (2019-20, Delta High School), Emily Speidel (2018-19, Carmel High School), and Kristina Lynch (2017-18, Penn 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, White 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. White 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

###