

**PILGRIM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Sarah Lynch** of **Pilgrim High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Lynch is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pilgrim 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 Lynch as Rhode Island'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, Lynch 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 midfielder scored 21 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Patriots (15-2-1) to the Division I state semifinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Lynch led Pilgrim to back-to-back Division II state championships as a freshman and sophomore. A 2021 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 39 goals and 36 assists.

Lynch has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Sarah just did so many things well on the field and really made her entire team run," said Scott Rollins, head coach of South Kingstown High School. "She was super-technical in the midfield and could beat you with a pass or a shot if she needed to. When we played Pilgrim, we knew that the only chance we had to beat them was to shut down Sarah."

Lynch has maintained a B average in the classroom. She will attend Lasell College, near Boston, where she will play soccer 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.

Lynch joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year Catherine Clements (2020-21, La Salle Academy), Faith Hutchins (2019-20, South Kingstown High School), and Olivia Freitas (2018-19 & 2017-18, La Salle Academy), 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, Lynch 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. Lynch 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).

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