

**SOUTHLAKE CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Kennedy Fuller** of **Southlake Carroll High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Fuller is the second Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Southlake Carroll 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 Fuller as Texas' 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, Fuller 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-5 freshman midfielder led the Dragons to a 22-1-4 record and the Conference 6A state championship this past season. Fuller scored 26 goals and passed for 15 assists, recording a hat trick in Carroll's 4-0 win over Rockwall High in the state title game to earn tournament MVP honors. The Dallas Morning News Player of the Year, she is a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-15 Girls National Team and is ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2025 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

A member of the National Junior Honor Society, her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter and the White Chapel Church youth group, Fuller has volunteered locally at Count Your Blessings, a store for church goods and religious gifts, and on behalf of G&J Ministries, which provides sanctuary for renewal, restoration and redemption to those in need. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer coach and mentor. "Kennedy is special—she is creative, motivated and mature, both physically and mentally," said Steve McBride, head coach of Grapevine High School. "She is the total package. Big-time players show up in big-time moments and she did that."

Fuller has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore year of high school 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.

Fuller joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sydney Becerra (2020-21, Flower Mound High School), Jillian Martinez (2019-20, Madison High School), Barbara Olivieri (2018-19, Tompkins High School), and Grace Collins (2017-18, Memorial 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, Fuller 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. Fuller 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.

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