

**RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Hayden Crowley** of **Richland High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Crowley is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Richland 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 Crowley as Washington'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, Crowley 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 forward scored 25 goals and passed for 21 assists this past season, leading the Bombers (21-1) to the Class 4A state semifinals. The Class 4A co-Player of the Year, Crowley recorded a goal or an assist in 20 of Richland's 22 games. The Mid-Columbia Conference Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 41 goals and 56 assists.

Crowley has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and as a youth soccer coach. "Hayden is an incredible all-around player with excellent attacking [skills]," said Justin Almquist, head coach of Richland High School. "She is also a tenacious defender, which makes her unique in her ability to help her team in so many ways."

Crowley maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Crowley inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at the University of Washington. She graduated from high school in January and atten

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.

Crowley joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Players of the Year Layne St. George (2020-21, Holy Names Academy), Jen Estes (2019-20, Lake Washington High School), Bea Franklin (2018-19, Seattle Preparatory School), and Summer Yates (2017-18, Chiawana 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, Crowley 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. Crowley 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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