

**Haverling High School Student-Athlete Named  
Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year**

**CHICAGO** (June 20, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Keegan Smith** of **Haverling High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Smith is the first Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Haverling High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Smith as New York’s best high school girls soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Aly Wagner (1997-98, Presentation High School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.) and Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 6-foot senior midfielder led the Rams to a 21-1 record and the Class B state championship this past season. Smith scored 28 goals and passed for 14 assists, netting six of Haverling’s seven goals in three state tournament games. Also the Class B Player of the Year, she plays keeper for her club team but played the field for the Rams, concluding her prep soccer career with 89 goals and 59 assists. She was a United Soccer Coaches All-American selection and is ranked as the No. 103 recruit in the Class of 2024 (as a goalie) by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

The class vice president since seventh grade, Smith has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee. “Keegan Smith can absolutely dominate a soccer game,” said Arin Belden, head coach of Dansville High School. “Her ability to control everything in the air makes her special. She’s always a threat to score on set pieces and corners. You know a player is good when the opposing team and coaches know what she is going to do, game plan to stop her and still can’t.”

Smith maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Smith inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll early at the University of Arkansas. She graduated from high school in December

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 New York Girls Soccer Players of the Year Linda Ullmark (2022-23, Nichols School), Lia Howard (2021-22, Massapequa High School), Shae O’Rourke (2020-21, St. Mary’s High School) and Chloe DeLyser (2019-20, Marion High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).