



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and Community Outreach
6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204
443.809.5908 (English) 443.809.7801 (Español) www.bcps.org

FOR RELEASE: June 17, 2021

CONTACT: Dept. of Communications/Community Outreach, 443.809.5908
[BCPS press releases are available online](#)

Hereford High 2021 graduate named Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year

Payton Patrick is the first Gatorade Soccer Player of the Year from BCPS

Towson, MD – Hereford High School 2021 graduate Payton Patrick has been named 2020-21 Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Patrick is the first [Gatorade Soccer Player of the Year](#) from BCPS, and she leaves Hereford as the school's all-time leading scorer in girls soccer. Patrick graduated from Hereford High School with a weighted GPA of 4.78 and will head to the University of South Carolina this fall on scholarship to play on the women's soccer team.

"Payton is a transformational talent who not only accessed every ounce of her own ability through her dedicated hard work but also brought out the best in each of her teammates," said Hereford Girls Soccer Coach Brad Duvall.

Recognized by Gatorade for her accomplishments both on and off the field, Patrick received First Team All-State recognitions three times while at Hereford High and spent her free time volunteering at [House of Ruth](#) and raising money for Alzheimer's research.

"Over the course of four years, Payton has consistently made the honor roll and challenges herself by taking Gifted and Talented classes, Advanced Placement classes, and classes offered at the local community college," added Hereford High School Principal Joe Jira. "She is a well-rounded individual who excels in everything she does, whether it be sports or academics. Payton's ability to lead in the classroom was best seen in her role as an AVID scholar and AVID tutor. In this capacity, she guided students through difficulties with their coursework, helped them stay organized, and served as an exemplar role model."

Per Gatorade, Patrick can award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization she chose is deserving of a \$10,000 spotlight grants, one of 12 that will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 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.

For more information, please see Gatorade's official [press release](#).

#

[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).