

JUNEAU-DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 13, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Malia Miller of Juneau-Douglas High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Miller is the third Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Juneau-Douglas 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 Miller as Alaska'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, Miller joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, 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 for 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-2 senior midfielder scored a state single-season record 43 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Crimson Bears (19-1) to the Division 2 state championship. A four-time member of the All-State Tournament team, Miller graduates with the state career record for goals, now 105.

Miller has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal shelter, a retirement home and youth sports programs. "Malia Miller is a natural-born, goal-scoring machine," said John Newell, head coach at Thunder Mountain High. "I've been coaching high school soccer since the 1990s and have never seen a player with her all-around abilities. She's the type of player who just can't be stopped."

Miller has maintained a B average in the classroom. She will attend Bellevue College in Washington State this fall, where she will play soccer.

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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Miller joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jordan Foraker (2017-18, South Anchorage High School), Kelsey Eagle (2016-17, Dimond High School), Malia Lyken (2015-16, Dimond High School), Haleigh Van Allen (2014-15, Service High School) and Holly Brehmer (2013-14, Chugiak High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Miller also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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 www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.