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**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 23, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Aaliyah Lewis of Dimond High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Lewis is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 Lewis 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 May, Lewis joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-4 junior forward led the Lynx to a 16-1-1 record entering the state tournament, scheduled for May 24. Lewis scored 22 goals and passed for three assists through 18 games. A two-year team captain, she was a First Team All-Cook Inlet Conference selection.

Lewis has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, the Salvation Army and youth soccer programs.

"She has tremendous athletic ability and good skills," said Mark Cascolan, head coach at rival Service High. "She's a game-changer, just a dangerous, dangerous player."

Lewis will begin her senior 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 ESPNHS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kelly Cobb (2010 - 11, Chugiak High School), Tricia Stonebraker, (2009-10, Service), Alev Kelter (2007-08 & 2008-09 Chugiak), and Carly Butcher (2006-07, South Anchorage) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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