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

CHICAGO (May 21, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Aaliyah Lewis of Dimond High School as its 2012-13 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 senior forward has led the Lynx to a 13-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament, scheduled to begin May 23. Lewis scored 22 goals and passed for six assists in the regular season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, she was an All-State selection in 2012 and is a two-time First Team All-Cook Inlet Conference honoree.

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

"Lewis is a big scoring threat, and her speed separates her from other players in the state," said Lauren Mason, head coach at Eagle River High. "She's quick with the ball at her feet and she's willing to battle in the air too."

Lewis has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Alabama State University 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Two-time winner Lewis joins Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kelly Cobb (2010 - 11, Chugiak High School), Tricia Stonebraker (2009-10, Service), Alev Kelter (2008-09 & 2007-08, Chugiak), and Carly Butcher (2006-2007, 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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