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## **SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Jordan Foraker of South Anchorage High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Foraker is the second Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Foraker 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, Foraker joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-5 senior forward and midfielder scored 22 goals and passed for 20 assists this past season, leading the Wolverines (15-4-5) to the Division 1 state championship. A three-time All-Cook Inlet Conference selection, Foraker was also twice named to the All-State Tournament team.

Foraker has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, youth soccer programs and Operation Shoebox, which provides hands-on support for American troops deployed overseas and returning home. "Foraker is fast and she's a great goal scorer," said Tim Valesko, head coach at Dimond High. "She's a good passer of the ball, good around the net, great footwork. She's very gifted technically, and she's a really well-rounded kid."

Foraker has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Utah 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Foraker joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kelsey Eagle (2016-17, Dimond High School), Malia Lyken (2015-16, Dimond High School), Haleigh Van Allen (2014-15, Service High School), Holly Brehmer (2013-14, Chugiak High School), Aaliyah Lewis (2012-13 & 2011-12, Dimond High School), Kelly Cobb (2010-11, Chugiak High School), Tricia Stonebraker (2009-10, Service), Alev Kelter (2008-09 & 2007-08, Chugiak), and Carly Butcher (2006-07, South Anchorage) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Foraker will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants – one for each sport – will be announced throughout the year.

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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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