

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

BUCKINGHAM BROWNE & NICHOLS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Kayla Duran of Buckingham Browne & Nichols School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Duran is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Buckingham Browne & Nichols 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 Duran as Massachusetts'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, Duran 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-10 senior midfielder scored 25 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Knights (14-2-4) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A Tournament championship game. An All-Scholastic honoree by both the Boston Globe and Boston Herald, Duran was also a two-time Independent School League MVP. An All-American selection by United Soccer Coaches, she concluded her prep soccer career with 63 goals and 44 assists.

Also a defenseman on the BB&N girls ice hockey team, Duran has volunteered locally as a school tour guide. She has also donated her time at a homeless shelter and food bank, and as a youth soccer coach. "Kayla made everything happen for herself, her teammates and the BB&N team," said Kim Bohlin, head coach of Lawrence Academy. "Kayla was the backbone of the team and the key to their [Independent School League] championship this year. She had a presence on the field that was unmatched."

Duran has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Boston College beginning 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.

Duran joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Soccer Players of the Year Eve Hewins (2016-17, Hingham High School), Brooke Heinsohn (2015-16, The Rivers School), Gaby Carreiro (2014-15, Nipmuc Regional High School), Eve Goulet (2013-14, Sutton High School), Kristi Kirshe (2012-13, Franklin High School), Hayley Dowd (2011-12, Peabody High School), Sam Mewis (2010-11 & 2009-10, Whitman-Hanson Regional High School), Danielle Dakin (2008-09, Minnechaug Regional High School), Hayley Brock (2007-08, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School), and Amy Caldwell (2006-07, Braintree High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Duran 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.

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