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MINOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Allison Lepp of Minot High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Lepp is the second Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Minot 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 Lepp as North Dakota'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, Lepp 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-7 junior midfielder scored 17 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Majettes (14-2-1) to fifth place at the state tournament. A First Team All-State honoree, Lepp led the Western Dakota Association in scoring and was selected to the All-WDA squad.

A devoted member of her church community, Lepp has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs. "Allison Lepp is a big presence in the midfield," said Stephen Weston, head coach at Mandan High. "She scores a lot of goals, but she also prevents them by breaking down opposition play. She really has a complete game."

Lepp has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She 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 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.

Lepp joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sofia Lewis (2016-17, Minot High School), Jenny Marsh (2015-16 & 2014-15, Davies High School), Anna Reinholz (2013-14, Shanley High School), Emily Wendorff (2012-13 & 2011-12, Davies High School), Tessa Neameyer (2010-11, Century High School), Jenae Dabill (2009-10, Jamestown High School), Hannah Langseth (2008-09, Shanley High School), and Rachael Loomis (2007-08 & 2006-07, Fargo South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Lepp 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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