

EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 13, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Megan Plaschko of Eagan High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Plaschko is the second Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Eagan 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 Plaschko as Minnesota'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, Plaschko joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-9 senior goalkeeper recorded 15 shutouts and surrendered just eight goals this past season, leading the Wildcats (18-1-3) to the Class AA state tournament semifinals. The Class AA Ms. Soccer award-winner, Plaschko was also the Pioneer Press Player of the Year and a United Soccer Coaches All-American selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with a whopping 44 shutouts.

A member of her school's Interact Club, Plaschko has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army and as a youth soccer coach. "Megan is fierce, commanding and a game-changer in the net," said Gretchen Stramel, head coach of Rosemount High. "She was by far the top goalie in the state this past season was a key reason for her team's success."

Plaschko has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Plaschko joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Meredith Haakenson (2017-18 & 2016-17, Maple Grove Senior High School), Hannah Cade (2015-16, Lakeville North High School), Sophie Babo (2014-15, Orono High School) and Elizabeth Endy (2013-14, Minnetonka High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Plaschko also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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