

MINOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Allison Lepp of Minot High School** as its **2018-19 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 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-7 senior midfielder scored 12 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Majettes (12-3-1) to the state final. North Dakota's returning Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Lepp is also a two-time First Team All-State honoree and was selected as the state's girls soccer Senior Athlete of the Year.

A devoted member of her church community, Lepp has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs. "Lepp is a very skilled player," said Brandi Harty, head coach at Jamestown High. "She does a great job distributing the ball and finishing, and she's fantastic on set pieces. She makes a huge difference for her team."

Lepp has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Western Washington 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. 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.

Two-time winner Lepp joins 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) and Anna Reinholz (2013-14, Shanley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Lepp 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.

###