

**EXETER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Megan Olszewski of Exeter High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Olszewski is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter 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 Olszewski as New Hampshire'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, Olszewski joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 of 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 goalkeeper led the Blue Hawks to a 19-0 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Olszewski allowed just three goals and posted 16 shutouts. She did not allow a goal in three postseason games, capping the run with an eight-save performance in a 2-0 win over Londonderry High in the state final. A First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 51 wins and 38 shutouts.

Olszewski was diagnosed with dyslexia in first grade and has suffered from school-induced anxiety. As a junior, she raised money to host a free screening and panel discussion of the documentary film "Angst," about anxiety in high-school students. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics, and she has donated her time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through the Exeter High School National Honor Society. "Megan Olszewski was a wall in goal," said Nick O'Brien, head coach of Winnacunnet High School. "She really came through in the biggest moments and games of the season and led her team to an undefeated season and state title."

Olszewski has maintained a weighted 4.51 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Massachusetts.

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.

Olszewski joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Players of the Year Paige LaBerge (2018-19, Manchester Central High School), Brianna CoCo (2017-18, Bedford High School), Bailey Kolinski (2016-17, Brewster Academy), Gabi Brummett (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, The Derryfield School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.