

**WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 15, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Aubrey Stacy of West Valley High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stacy is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from West Valley 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 Stacy as Alaska'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, Stacy 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 midfielder and forward scored seven goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Wolfpack (8-2-2) to the Division 1 semifinals. Stacy is a three-time First Team All-Conference selection and was named to the All-State Tournament team. She concluded her prep career with 47 goals and 17 assists.

Stacy has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association. "Aubrey Stacy is strong and tough and very dynamic," said Num Tindle, head coach at West Anchorage High. "She can score goals, she can take people on 1-on-1. She's just an impact player."

Stacy has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at Northern Arizona University.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Stacy joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kana Mateaki (2019-20, Dimond High School), Malia Miller (2018-19, Juneau-Douglas High School), Jordan Foraker (2017-18, South Anchorage High School), and Kelsey Eagle (2016-17, Dimond High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Stacy has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Stacy is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

###