

**CAPE ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 Maggie Cochran of Cape Elizabeth High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Cochran is the second Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cape Elizabeth 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 Cochran as Maine'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, Cochran 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-8 junior midfielder led the Capers to a 7-0 record this past season. Cochran recorded 12 goals and eight assists, producing multiple points in all seven games. A 2020 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American and a three-time First Team All-State honoree, Cochran scored 32 goals as a sophomore in 2019, leading the Capers to the Class B state title. She concluded her junior year with 56 goals and 32 assists in her prep soccer career.

Cochran has volunteered locally as a peer helper at Cape Elizabeth High and has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Maggie played the wing for them and was constantly a threat beating players off the dribble," said Mike Farley, head coach of Scarborough High. "I've never seen a player in Maine that you literally had to defend the full width of the field and around 40 yards out from goal."

Cochran has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Northeastern University beginning in the fall of 2022.

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.

Cochran joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kristina Kelly (2019-20 & 2018-19, Camden Hills Regional High School), and Sara D'Appolonia (2017-18 & 2016-17, Yarmouth High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Cochran has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Cochran 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.

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