

**EXETER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Ella Fraser of Exeter High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Fraser is the second 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 Fraser 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, Fraser 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-3 senior forward led the Blue Hawks to a 14-0 record and a second straight Division I state championship this past season. Fraser scored 12 goals and passed for seven assists, including two tallies and an assist in Exeter's 5-0 win over Windham High in the state final. A First Team All-State selection, she was also a 2020 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American honoree. She concluded her prep soccer career with 45 goals and 29 assists.

Fraser has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer research. She has also donated her time to the New Hampshire SPCA and as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Ella has exceptional speed that makes her very difficult to mark at the high school level," said Kendrick Whittle, head coach of Salem High. "She's exceptionally dynamic when she is on the ball and nearly impossible to stop in the open field."

Fraser has maintained a weighted 4.35 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Murray State University in Kentucky 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. 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.

Fraser joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Players of the Year Megan Olszewski (2019-20, Exeter High School), Paige LaBerge (2018-19, Manchester Central High School), Brianna CoCo (2017-18, Bedford High School), and Bailey Kolinski (2016-17, Brewster Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

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