

**CAPE ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Maggie Cochran** of **Cape Elizabeth High School** is the **2021-22 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior midfielder led the Capers to a 17-1 record and the Class B state championship this past season. Cochran scored 21 goals and passed for 14 assists, including five goals in Cape Elizabeth's four-game postseason run to the state title. A four-time Class B Player of the Year, she was also the 2021 Portland Press-Herald Varsity Maine Player of the Year and is a two-time United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with 77 goals and 46 assists.

Cochran has volunteered locally as a peer helper at Cape Elizabeth High School and she has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Maggie is a breath of fresh air both on and off the field," said Graham Forsyth, head coach of Cape Elizabeth High School. "Her relentless approach to improving and also helping others around her epitomizes everything about her. Without her, we may not have won any of the three state titles that we did win."

Cochran has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Northeastern 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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner 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, Yarmouth High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Cochran has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Cochran is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.