

**EDINA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Maddie Dahlien** of **Edina High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Dahlien is the second Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Edina 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 Dahlien as Minnesota'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, Dahlien 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-9 senior forward scored 37 goals and passed for 14 assists this past season, leading the Hornets (20-1) to the Class AAA state semifinals. Dahlien recorded 11 goals and four assists in six postseason games and was named Class AAA Miss Soccer and the Minneapolis Star Tribune Metro Player of the Year. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Dahlien is ranked as the nation's No. 66 recruit in the Class of 2022 by TopDrawerSoccer.com. She concluded her prep soccer career with 92 goals and 43 assists.

A three-time track and field state sprinting champion, Dahlien has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Maddie Dahlien was easily the most dangerous player in the state and was a difference-maker every single game," said Tony Peszneker, head coach of Wayzata High School. "No matter how you play against her, she will always get chances."

Dahlien has maintained a weighted 3.80 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Dahlien joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Khyah Harper (2020-21, Centennial High School), Paige Peltier (2019-20, Cretin-Derham Hall), Megan Plaschko (2018-19, Eagan High School), and Meredith Haakenson (2017-18, Maple Grove Senior 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, Dahlien 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. Dahlien 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.