CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Alexis Pashales** of **Coronado High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Pashales is the third Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Coronado 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 Pashales as Nevada'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, Pashales 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-5 senior midfielder led the Cougars to a 20-1-2 record and the Division 5A state championship this past season. Pashales scored 20 goals and passed for eight assists, netting the lone goal in Coronado's 1-0 win over Faith Lutheran High in the state title game. The Division 5A Southern Nevada Player of the Year, Pashales was also the Desert League Offensive Player of the Year. She concluded her prep soccer career with 50 goals and 43 assists.

Pashales has volunteered locally as a peer and youth tutor across multiple subjects, and she has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "Alexis has been at the heart of our team's tactics since she was a freshman," said Dana Neel, head coach of Coronado High School. "This season, she really took ownership of that role and led our team with intent to the state title."

Pashales has maintained a weighted 4.62 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of the Pacific this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Pashales joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Players of the Year Isabella Flocchini (2020-21, Galena High School), Jordan Brown (2019-20, Faith Lutheran High School), Gianna Gourley (2018-19, Bishop Gorman High School), and Olivia Packer (2017-18, Palo Verde 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, Pashales 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. Pashales 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 studentathletes, 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.