

**BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 23, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Araceli Cloutier** of **Bedford High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Cloutier is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bedford 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 Cloutier 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, Cloutier joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alyssa Thompson (2020-21, Harvard-Westlake School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.), Heather O'Reilly (2002-03 & 2001-02, East Brunswick High School, N.J.) and Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-9 senior defender led the Bulldogs to an 18-2 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Cloutier anchored a defense that allowed just five goals while also recording 17 shutouts. She pitched in offensively with four goals and three assists, including the set-up on Bedford's goal in its 1-0 win over Exeter High School in the state final. A United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, she is a two-time Division I First Team honoree.

Cloutier has volunteered with 4-H at local fairs and at a horse camp. She has also donated her time as a personal trainer and as a youth soccer coach and referee. "Araceli was dominant this season no matter where she played," said Megan Young, head coach of Exeter High School. "Whether she was playing defense or center mid, she was the center of every big play. Araceli is the reason that Bedford was so successful."

Cloutier has maintained a weighted 4.16 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Providence College 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.

Cloutier joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Players of the Year Lyndsey LaPerle (2021-22, Bow High School), Ella Fraser (2020-21, Exeter High School), Megan Olszewski (2019-20, Exeter High School), and Paige LaBerge (2018-19, Manchester Central High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).