SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 20, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Lana Djuranovic** of **Scarborough High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Djuranovic is the second Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Scarborough High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Djuranovic as Maine's best high school girls soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Aly Wagner (1997-98, Presentation High School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.) and Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 senior midfielder led the Red Storms to a 17-1 record and a second straight Class A state championship this past season. Djuranovic scored 32 goals and passed for five assists, including a tally in Scarborough's 2-0 win over Bangor High in the state final. A two-time United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, Djuranovic was the 2023 Varsity Maine Player of the Year. She concluded her prep soccer career with 78 goals and 23 assists.

Djuranovic is a peer leader in Scarborough High's Sources of Strength club, which is a youth suicide prevention project. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Simply put, Lana was the best player in the state for the second year in a row," said Craig Roberts, head coach of Cheverus High School. "What makes her special is that she plays in the midfield, but you can't mark her because she'll find the ball by moving out wide or up front or by sitting back or staying central. Her technical ability allows her to beat players one on one at speed with either foot and finish with either foot."

Djuranovic has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Miami (Fla.) 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.

Two-time winner Djuranovic joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Soccer Players of the Year Maggie Cochran (2021-20 & 2020-21, Cape Elizabeth High School) and Kristina Kelly (2019-20, Camden Hills Regional High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.