TIMBERLANE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Leah Morrier** of **Timberlane Regional High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Morrier is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Timberlane Regional 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 Morrier as New Hampshire'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 5-foot-7 senior forward and midfielder led the Owls to an 18-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Morrier scored 28 goals and passed for 14 assists, setting up Timberlane's lone goal in a 1-0 win over Portsmouth High in the state final. A United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, she is a three-time First Team All-State honoree and the 2023 Lawrence (Mass.) Eagle-Tribune Player of the Year. She concluded her prep soccer career with 51 goals and 42 assists.

A student council class representative at her school, Morrier has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen and as a peer tutor. She has also donated her time with her school's Unified physical education classes, which support physically and intellectually challenged youth athletes, in addition to serving as a youth soccer coach. "I'm not sure I can express in words just how valuable Leah was for Timberlane," said Mickey Smith, head coach of Portsmouth High School. "Our whole plan in the state championship was to just try to contain her, which we did a decent job of. But she still got us in the end."

Morrier has maintained a weighted 4.41 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell 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.

Morrier joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Players of the Year Araceli Cloutier (2022-23, Bedford High School), Lyndsey LaPerle (2021-22, Bow High School), Ella Fraser (2020-21, Exeter High School) and Megan Olszewski (2019-20, Exeter 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>.