## LONE PEAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 20, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Bella Devey** of **Lone Peak High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Devey is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lone Peak 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 Devey as Utah'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 junior midfielder and forward led the Knights to a 20-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Devey scored 11 goals and passed for 12 assists, including a goal and two assists in Lone Peak's 5-0 win over American Fork High School in the state final. The Deseret News Miss Soccer winner, she's a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team and is ranked as the nation's No. 98 recruit in the Class of 2025 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Devey has volunteered locally at a senior center and as a youth soccer coach. "Bella is a special player," said Derek Dunn, head coach of American Fork High School. "She includes everyone and is very good at making other teams defend her. She is super-talented in so many ways. It's a coach's dream to have such a versatile player."

Devey maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2025.

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.

Devey joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Players of the Year Nevaeh Peregrina (2022-23, Ogden High School), Lily Boyden (2021-22, Skyline High School), Bizzy Arevalo (2020-21, Davis High School) and Haven Empey (2019-20, American Fork 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>.