## SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Lexi Luff** of **South Anchorage High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Luff as Alaska's best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Morgan Gautrat (2010-11, Frederica Academy, Ga.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.), Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-4 senior forward led the Wolverines to a 16-0-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Luff scored 27 goals and passed for 18 assists, and netted a goal in South's 4-0 win over Dimond High School in the state final. A First Team All-State selection, she missed both her sophomore and junior seasons with a leg injury.

Luff has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and with the South Anchorage High School Kids Camp. She has also donated her time as an elementary school volunteer. "Lexi is dynamic and adaptable to different situations," said Vonnie DesJarlais, co-head coach of Service High School. "She isn't just a threat by herself. Because of her speed and athleticism, when she's going to goal, she's great at finding other players and making plays for her teammates."

Luff has maintained a 3.88 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Western Oregon University 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

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

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