## OLYMPUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Hope Munson** of **Olympus High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Utah 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 Munson as Utah'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-6 senior midfielder, forward and defender led the Titans to a 19-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. The Deseret News Ms. Soccer honoree, Munson scored 25 goals and passed for 15 assists. She also participated in a training camp with the Under-19 Women's National Team in February. She's ranked as the nation's No. 40 recruit in the Class of 2025 by TopDrawerSoccer.com and concluded her prep soccer career with 50 goals and 28 assists.

Munson has volunteered locally with SheBelongs, a program dedicated to providing soccer equipment to refugees. She has also donated her time at an eldercare facility and as a peer tutor. "Hope was the best player on the field all year," said Souli Phongsavath, head coach of Davis High School. "Her team does not win the state championship without her."

Munson maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at the University of North Carolina this fall. She graduated from high school in December and attended classes in Chapel Hill this past spring semester.

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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