

**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Keegynn Applegate** of **Dimond High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Applegate is the fifth Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Applegate as Alaska's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Applegate joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02 & 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-4 senior midfielder scored six goals and passed for 23 assists this past season, leading the Lynx (15-0-1) to the Division 1 state championship. Applegate was named First Team All-State Tournament and a First Team All-Cook Inlet Conference selection. She was also a First Team All-State honoree.

A talented musician, Applegate is a leader of her church's Youth Praise Team and has volunteered locally on behalf of a Vacation Bible School. "Keegynn Applegate had a great season and really dominated in the midfield," said Jeremy Johnson, head coach at Colony High. "She works incredibly hard on both sides of the ball and she has great field vision, always looking to set her teammates up. She also has an incredible shot with a lot of power."

Applegate has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at George Mason University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) 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.

Applegate joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Aubrey Stacy (2020-21, West Valley High School), Kana Mateaki (2019-20, Dimond High School), Malia Miller (2018-19, Juneau-Douglas High School), and Jordan Foraker (2017-18, South Anchorage High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Applegate has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Applegate is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

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