

**SAINT MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **Maddie Schepers** of **Saint Mark's High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Schepers is the second Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Mark's 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 Schepers as Delaware'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, Schepers 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-7 senior midfielder and forward scored 36 goals and passed for 19 assists this past season, leading the Spartans (16-2) to the Division 2 state championship. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Schepers was named Player of the Year by the Delaware High School Girls Soccer Coaches Association. She concluded her prep career with 107 goals.

Schepers has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen, Habitat for Humanity and youth soccer camps. "Maddie Schepers is just a very good player," said Mike James, head coach at Newark High. "She's incredibly quick and strong with both feet. She played a brutal schedule and won the state championship. There's no one more deserving."

Schepers has maintained a weighted 4.13 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Delaware 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.

Schepers joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caitlin St. Leger (2020-21, Caravel Academy), Paige Kenton (2019-20, Padua Academy), Sheyenne Allen (2018-19, Charter School of Wilmington), and Ashlee Brentlinger (2017-18, Padua Academy), 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, Schepers 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. Schepers 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.

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