BOW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Lyndsey LaPerle** of **Bow High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. LaPerle is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bow 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 LaPerle as New Hampshire'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, LaPerle 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-3 junior forward led the Falcons to an 18-1 record and the Division II state championship this past season. LaPerle scored 24 goals and passed for eight assists, and she netted the game-winning goal in overtime in both the state semifinals and state title game. A 2021 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection, she concluded her junior year with 40 goals and 13 assists in her prep soccer career.

LaPerle has volunteered locally as a peer and youth tutor, and she has donated her time as a youth camp counselor. "Lyndsey was fantastic this year," said Pete Clarke, head coach of Hollis-Brookline High School. "She has unusual speed and quickness, and great physicality. She is tenacious."

LaPerle has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 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.

LaPerle joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ella Fraser (2020-21, Exeter High School), Megan Olszewski (2019-20, Exeter High School), Paige LaBerge (2018-19, Manchester Central High School), and Brianna CoCo (2017-18, Bedford 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, LaPerle 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. LaPerle 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.