SITKA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 24, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Clare Mullin of Sitka High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field 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 Mullin as Alaska's best high school girls track & field athlete, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Sanya Richards (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fl.), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-4 senior distance runner led the Wolves to a second-place finish in the Division 2 state meet this past season. Mullin won her fourth straight state title in both the 800- and 1,600-meter events. She recorded personal-best clockings in those events this spring as well, taking fourth in the 800 with a time of 2:10.73 at the Mt. SAC Relays Invitational event and clocking a time of 4:51.05 in the 1600 at the Brian Young Invitational. The returning Gatorade Player of the Year, she also captured a third consecutive state championship in the 3,200 with a time of 11:49.35.

A National Honor Society member, Mullin has volunteered at a variety of school-related events. She has also donated her time to Sitka Rush Soccer Club, where she's served as an assistant coach and referee for players in kindergarten through fifth grade for the past four years. "What makes her so formidable in the distance races is her 'all-in' mentality—she simply goes hard the whole time and will not back down," said Tara Edwards, head coach at Grace Christian School. "In horrible conditions at our All-Star Meet on Kodiak Island, she attacked the race and held on for all she was worth until the very end. She is both tough and determined."

The valedictorian of her class, Mullin has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship for Gonzaga 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 student-athletes, 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>.

###