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CHARLOTTE LATIN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Mary Elliott McCabe of Charlotte Latin School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. McCabe is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Charlotte Latin 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 McCabe as North Carolina'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, McCabe joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-5 senior forward led the Hawks to a 19-1-1 record and a fourth-straight North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association Class 3A state championship this past season. McCabe scored 43 goals and passed for 14 assists, tallying two goals and an assist in the team's 3-1 win over Providence Day School in the state final. A four-time First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 117 goals and 51 assists.

McCabe has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit children's cancer research through Cookies for Kids' Cancer. She has also donated her time as a member of the Charlotte Latin School Booster Club and as a youth soccer coach. "Mary Elliott's pace and technical ability alone would separate her from most players," said Graham West, head coach of Covenant Day School. "But it was her attacking IQ that put her on a different level. Her runs were smart, decisive and effective, and her nose for the goal, and composure in front of it, were unmatched."

McCabe has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

McCabe joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ashlynn Serepca (2016-17 & 2015-16, Hough High School), Brianna Pinto (2014-15, Jordan High School), Morgan Reid (2013-14, Cardinal Gibbons High School), Alexis Shaffer (2012-13 & 2011-12, Green Hope High School), Caroline Lindquist (2010-11, Ravenscroft School), Mollie Pathman (2009-10 & 2008-09, Durham Academy), Nicole Danford (2007-08, Green Hope High School), and Nicole Panek (2006-07, Mount Tabor High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, McCabe will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants – one for each sport – will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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