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WINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 6, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jayne Lawman of Winfield High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Lawman is the second Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Winfield 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 Lawman as West Virginia'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 May, Lawman joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9 junior forward led the Generals to a 23-1-1 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Lawman scored 23 goals and passed for seven assists, including a goal and an assist in a 3-1 win over Morgantown High in the state semifinals to avenge Winfield's only loss of the season. A 2013 All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Lawman was the 2013 West Virginia Soccer Coaches Association's Class AAA Player of the Year.

Lawman has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth soccer coach.

"Jayne Lawman is a great all-around player who demonstrates leadership on the field and is the driving force behind her team," said Mike Rudge, head coach of St. Albans High. "The highest praise I can give a player is that they make those around them better, and that is Jayne Lawman."

Lawman has made a verbal commitment to attend Marshall University beginning in the fall of 2015.

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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with USA TODAY High School Sports, 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.

Lawman joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Michelle Newhouse (2012-13, Capital High School), Haleigh Hoff (2011-12, Winfield High School), Sami Molina (2010-11, Cabell Midland High School), Whitney Cavender (2009-10, University), Sarah Cogswell (2008-09, Jefferson High School), Megan Johnson (2007-08, George Washington High School), and Kim Abcouwer (2006-07, Charleston Catholic) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.