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CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NEVADA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 5, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Michaela Morris of Coronado High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Morris is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Coronado 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 Morris as Nevada'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, Morris 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-6 senior forward scored 45 goals and passed for 18 assists this past season, leading the Cougars (16-8) to the Division I state championship game. Also the Southeast League Player of the Year, Morris battled back from a quadriceps injury to score the game-winning goal in overtime against Palo Verde High in the state semifinals. A three-time All-Southern Nevada selection and a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV Olympic Development Program team, she concluded her prep soccer career with 89 goals and 37 assists.

Morris has maintained a 4.6 weighted GPA in the classroom. A candidate for valedictorian of the Coronado High senior class, she has volunteered locally at the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Catholic ministry and has also donated her time to Make it Personal Love Bags, gifting wellness items to homeless people.

"Michaela was an extremely valuable player to that team," said Frank Messina, head coach of Palo Verde High. "The fact that she went down with an injury during the tail end of the state semifinals and then came back in to score the game-winning goal against us is impressive."

Morris has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at UNLV beginning 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 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.

Morris joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sydney Sladek (2013-14, Pahump Valley High School), Nicole Westover (2012-13, Green Valley High School), Haley Wingender, (2011-12, Bishop Gorman High School), Lauren Kaskie (2010-11, Palo Verde High School), McKenzie Karas, (2009-10, Arbor View), Zakiya Bywaters (2008-09, Rancho), and Jenna Riddle (2007-08 & 2006-07, Centennial) 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.

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