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**RIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE UTAH GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 5, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Hailey Skolmoski of Riverton High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Skolmoski is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverton 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 Skolmoski as Utah'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, Skolmoski 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-4 senior forward scored 28 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Silverwolves (13-4-1) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals. A three-time Class 5A First Team All-State selection, Skolmoski is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV Olympic Development Program team and participated in the High School Soccer All-American Game in December. She concluded her prep soccer career with 59 goals.

Skolmoski has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and ranks first in her class of 648 students. The president of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and youth mentor in addition to participating in multiple fundraising campaigns through her school.

"Hailey changes every single game she plays in," said Caitlin Young, head coach of Westlake High. "She is a threat on the ball, with her distribution and makes great runs to get the ball in dangerous situations."

Skolmoski has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Utah 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.

Skolmoski joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Players of the Year Bizzy Phillips (2013-14 & 2012-13, Alta High School), Michele Murphy, (2011-12, Alta High School), Stephanie Verdoia (2010-11, Brighton High School), Jaiden Thornock, (2009-10, Bonneville), Kealia Ohai (2008-09 & 2007-08, Alta High School), and Megan Ohai (2006-07, Alta) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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