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**CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Kelsey Turnbow of Central Valley High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Turnbow is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Valley 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 Turnbow as Washington'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, Turnbow 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 sophomore forward led the Bears to a 20-2 record and a second straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Turnbow scored 30 goals and passed for six assists, including a four-goal performance in a 5-2 victory over Jackson High in the state title game. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team, she is ranked as the No. 23 recruit in the Class of 2017 and concluded her sophomore year with 50 goals in her prep soccer career.

Turnbow has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a food bank and as a youth soccer coach in addition to donating her time as a motivational speaker for elementary school students.

"Kelsey Turnbow is the real deal as a striker who can create opportunities for herself and her teammates," said Kevin Houston, head coach of Mead High. "She is a player that coaches have to account for either by double-teaming her or putting extra players back to help defend."

Turnbow has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Santa Clara University beginning in the fall of 2017.

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.

Two-time winner Turnbow joins Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Players of the Year Audrey Thomas (2012-13, Issaquah High School), Isabel Farrell, (2011-12, Interlake High School), Brooke Gilbert (2010-11, Glacier Peak High School), Lindsay Elston, (2009-10, Eastlake), Emily Hurd (2008-09, Eastlake High School), and Kate Deines (2007-08 & 2006-07, Issaquah High School), 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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