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**MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 19, 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 Leigh Haynes of Mountain Brook High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Haynes is the first Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Brook 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 Haynes as Alabama'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, Haynes 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 midfielder scored 14 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Spartans (13-6-2) to the Class 7A state tournament. A 2014 Birmingham News First Team All-Metro selection, Haynes is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region III Olympic Development Program team. She concluded her prep soccer career with 27 goals and 16 assists.

Haynes has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, she has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity and as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer and multiple sclerosis research.

"Leigh Haynes is a blue-collar type player," said Justin Pino, head coach of Hewitt-Trussville High. "She not only has the size and strength but also the work ethic to go along with her ability. She's very composed on the ball and can attack in multiple ways."

Haynes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Wake Forest University 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.

Haynes joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Players of the Year Claudia Day (2013-14, Briarwood Christian School), Toni Payne (2012-13, Oak Mountain High School), Bailee Hartnett (2011-12, Oak Mountain High School), Simone Charley (2010-11, Spain Park High School), Annalika Steyn (2009-10, Spain Park), Lauren Arnold (2008-09, Spain Park), Mary Nicholson (2007-08, Vestavia Hills), and Victoria Frederick (2006-07, Huntsville) 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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