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## **HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 19, 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 Bri Hatch of Highland High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hatch is the third Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Highland 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 Hatch as Arizona'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, Hatch 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-7 senior forward led the Hawks to a 24-2-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Hatch scored 22 goals and passed for 14 assists, including the game-winning goal in overtime during the state semifinals and state final. The 2015 East Valley Tribune Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 57 goals and 42 assists.

Hatch has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at an eldercare facility and a home for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. She has also donated her time as an elementary school teacher's aide and as a youth soccer coach.

"Bri Hatch is a tremendous athlete," said Sue Kirchner, head coach of Pinnacle High. "She is a dynamic, strong and aggressive competitor. She requires constant attention from opposing defenses and is a scoring threat on the field."

Hatch has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Hatch joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Players of the Year Gabi Stoian (2013-14, Pinnacle High School), Jaden DeGracie (2012-13 & 2011-12, Highland High School), Rylie Johnson (2010-11, Hamilton High School), Hilary Zenuk (2009-10, Highland), Jessica Petznick (2008-09, Xavier College Prep), and Brittany Cole (2007-08 & 2006-07, Corona del Sol) 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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