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**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 McKenzie Dixon of Bentonville High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Dixon is the fourth Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 Dixon as Arkansas'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, Dixon 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 Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior forward had led the Tigers to an 18-4 record and a berth in the Class 7A state tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Dixon scored 39 goals and passed for 19 assists through 22 games. A member of the U.S. Soccer Region III Olympic Development Program team, she is a three-time Class 7A First Team All-State selection. She entered the state quarterfinals with a school-record 110 goals and 41 assists in her prep soccer career.

Dixon has maintained a weighted 4.03 GPA in the classroom. A three-time state champion in the triple jump, she has volunteered locally in Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas' pediatrics ward and at a food bank and homeless shelter. She has also donated her time to multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"McKenzie is a dangerous player because she doesn't miss many opportunities when she gets the ball," said John Marshall, head coach of Har-Ber High. "She has a tremendous spirit and her work rate is exceptional."

Dixon has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tenn., 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.

Two-time winner Dixon joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Tayler Estrada (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Bentonville High School), Anne Mitchell (2009-10, Fayetteville High School), April Miller (2008-09, Bentonville), Mary Pat Hardin (2007-08, Mount St. Mary Academy), and Alyvia Rogers (2006-07, Rogers 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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