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MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Taylor Ziemer of Montgomery High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ziemer is the first Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Montgomery 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 Ziemer as California'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, Ziemer 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-9 junior forward and midfielder scored 29 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Vikings (22-4) to the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division I championship game. A member of the player pool for the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team, Ziemer is a three-time All-Empire League selection. She concluded her junior year with 68 goals and 37 assists in her prep soccer career.

Ziemer has maintained a weighted 4.3 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Taylor is big, strong and fast," said Mark Archambault, head coach of Windsor High. "She is a threat to score from anywhere inside of 30 yards and she is equally as talented with either foot."

Ziemer has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Ziemer joins recent Gatorade California Girls Soccer Players of the Year MacKenzie Cerda (2013-14, Edison High School), Amber Munerlyn (2012-13, Santiago High School), Ryan Walker-Hartshorn (2011-12, Bishop O'Dowd High School), Lauren Bohaboy (2010-11, Santa Margarita Catholic High School), Abby Dahlkemper (2009-10, Sacred Heart Prep), Lauren Matheson (2008-09, Mission Viejo High School), Teresa Noyola (2007-08, Palo Alto High School), and Lauren Barnes (2006-07, Upland 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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