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**Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)**

## **MOUNTAIN VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE COLORADO 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 Mallory Pugh of Mountain Vista High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Pugh is the second Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Vista 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 Pugh as Colorado'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, Pugh 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-4 junior forward had led the Golden Eagles to a 16-2 record and a berth in the Class 5A state semifinals at the time of her selection. Pugh had scored 24 goals and passed for 12 assists through 18 games. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-20 Women's National Team, Pugh was the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's 2014 Youth National Player of the Year for club play. She is rated as the No. 1 recruit in the nation for the Class of 2016 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Pugh has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of multiple community-service initiatives to benefit pediatric care at Children's Hospital Colorado. Pugh has also donated her time to the Panther Pantry, which serves needy families in Douglas County, as well as the Tennyson Center for Children, a home for abused youth. In addition, she has worked with the US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities.

"Mallory Pugh is the best player in high school soccer I have ever seen," said Adam Buseck, head coach of Heritage High. "She can do it individually but more importantly she has a high tactical understanding of the game and understands how her movements both with and without the ball can impact her team and her opponent."

Pugh has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at UCLA 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.

Pugh joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kaycie Young (2013-14, Rock Canyon High School), Gabbi Miranda (2012-13, Mountain Vista High School), Janine Beckie (2011-12, Valor Christian High School), Annie Kunz (2010-11 & 2009-10, Wheat Ridge High School), Olivia Wagner (2008-09, Dawson School), Beth West (2007-08, Grandview High School), and Britney MacDonald (2006-07, J.K. Mullen) 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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