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BLUE VALLEY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE KANSAS 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 Parker Roberts of Blue Valley North High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Roberts is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley North 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 Roberts as Kansas'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, Roberts 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 midfielder had led the Mustangs to a 7-8-1 record and a berth in the Class 6A regional semifinals at the time of her selection. Roberts scored 12 goals and passed for two assists through 16 games, missing three full games and most of three others with an injured quadriceps muscle. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-20 Women's National Team, she was a 2014 All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and is a three-time Class 6A First Team All-State honoree.

Roberts has maintained a weighted 3.61 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a peer tutor. She has also completed a service-mission trip to Costa Rica.

"Parker Roberts is a great player," said Sarah Gonzalez, head coach of Shawnee Mission West High. "We knew if we made a mistake on her she would punish us, and that happened when we played her this year."

Roberts has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kansas 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 Roberts joins Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Haley Hanson (2012-13, Olathe East High School), Lexi Aiman (2011-12, Blue Valley West High School), Hannah Chadick (2010-11, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Ashley Catrell (2009-10, Blue Valley West), Jordan Jackson (2008-09 & 2007-08, Blue Valley West High School), and Geneva Magness (2006-07, St. Thomas Aquinas) 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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