

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**JENKS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Kaylee Dao of Jenks High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Dao is the fourth Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jenks 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 Dao as Oklahoma'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, Dao 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 midfielder has led the Trojans to a 15-1 record and the Class 6A state championship game, scheduled for May 16. Dao scored 17 goals and passed for 11 assists through 16 games. A three-time All-District selection, she is ranked as the nation's No. 81 player in the Class of 2015 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Dao has maintained a 4.10 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally assisting the homeless and coaching youth sports teams.

"Dao is such a skilled player and she really makes that team go," said Nicki West, head coach at Booker T. Washington High. "She's extremely smart, plays within her role and is so effective in everything she does."

Dao has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma 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.

Dao joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Players of the Year Anna Beffer (2013-14, Union High School), Liz Keester (2012-13 & 2010-11, Jenks High School), Kaela Little (2011-12, Bishop Kelley High School), Hayley Harryman (2009-10, Edmond North High School), Caitlin Mooney (2008-09, Edmond Sante Fe High School), Katie Bykowski (2007-08, Bishop Kelley High School), and Rebecca Allen (2006-07, Jenks 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.

###