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Weiser High School STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE Idaho GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (February 4, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced **Lauren Bouvia of Weiser High School** as its **2015-16 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Bouvia is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Weiser 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 Bouvia as Idaho’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, Bouvia 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-6 junior forward and midfielder set a national record with 127 goals this past season, leading the Wolverines (20-1) to the Class 3A state championship. Bouvia broke the previous record of 106 goals, set in 1989 by Shannon Stewart of Coronado High (Texas). She contributed 23 assists for Weiser and recorded a hat trick in the Wolverines’ 4-1 win over Coeur d’Alene Charter in the state final. Bouvia also set state records with nine goals in a single state tournament game and 16 goals in the three-game tournament. She concluded her junior year with a state career record 213 goals.

Bouvia has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Future Farmers of America, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church.

“In 24 years of coaching, Lauren Bouvia is the best female soccer athlete I have ever seen at the high school level,” said Donald Gregory, head coach of Emmett High. “I knew she was a special player last year, but this year was something phenomenal.”

Bouvia has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of California at Davis beginning in the fall of 2017.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](http://www.gatorade.com/poy/overview.aspx) 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](http://www.usatodayhss.com/customize), 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.

Bouvia joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sophia Kallas (2014-15, Boise High School), Raimee Sherle (2013-14, Rocky Mountain High School), Kelcie Hedge (2012-13, Post Falls High School), Brooke Heidemann (2011-12, Rocky Mountain High School), Sofia Huerta (2010–11 & 2009-10, Centennial High School), Miah Mollay (2008–09, Boise High School), Halley Kreminski (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Brandy Hickcox (2006-07, Capital 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy)*.*

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