

Contact: John Manzo (312-729- 3656)

**OAK MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 17, 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 Julia Pack of Oak Mountain High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Pack is the second Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Mountain 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 Pack as Alabama'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, Pack 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 sophomore midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (23-4-1) to the second round of the Class 7A state tournament. A three-time Birmingham All-Metro Team selection, Pack was a 2015 AL.com Super All-State honoree. She concluded her sophomore year with 46 goals and 37 assists in her prep soccer career.

Pack has maintained a weighted 4.31 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer research and as a youth soccer coach. She has also donated her time to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"Julia Pack elevates the play of her teammates from average to great," said Will Patridge, head coach of Hoover High. "Against Oak Mountain, you have to know where Julia is at all times. She is a talented player with a high soccer IQ that can adapt her playing style on the fly to give teams fits."

Pack has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Auburn University beginning in the fall of 2018.

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.

Pack joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Players of the Year Leigh Haynes (2014-15, Mountain Brook High School), Claudia Day (2013-14, Briarwood Christian School), Toni Payne (2012-13, Oak Mountain High School), Bailee Hartnett (2011-12, Oak Mountain High School), Simone Charley (2010-11, Spain Park High School), Annalika Steyn (2009-10, Spain Park High School), Lauren Arnold (2008-09, Spain Park High School), Mary Nicholson (2007-08, Vestavia Hills High School), and Victoria Frederick (2006-07, Huntsville 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.

###