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**PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA 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 Kelsey Turnbow of Pinnacle High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Turnbow is the second Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pinnacle 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 Turnbow as Arizona’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, Turnbow 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 two-time Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year before moving to Arizona with her family last summer, the 5-foot-8 junior forward scored 36 goals and passed for four assists this past season, leading the Pioneers (12-7-1) to the Division I state quarterfinals. The Arizona Republic Big School Player of the Year, Turnbow is rated as the No. 37 recruit in the Class of 2017 by TopDrawerSoccer.com. She concluded her junior year with 86 goals in her prep soccer career.

Turnbow has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally working with students with disabilities and as a peer tutor. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer coach.

“Kelsey Turnbow is a player you get lost watching as an opposing coach for her movement off the ball and her intensity to possess the ball,” said Tom White, head coach of Notre Dame Prep. “She is a true goal-scorer in multiple ways.”

Turnbow has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Santa Clara University beginning in the fall of 2017.

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.

Turnbow joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Soccer Players of the Year Bri Hatch (2014-15, Highland High School), Gabi Stoian (2013-14, Pinnacle High School), Jaden DeGracie (2012-13 & 2011-12, Highland High School), Rylie Johnson (2010-11, Hamilton High School), Hilary Zenuk (2009-10, Highland), Jessica Petznick (2008-09, Xavier College Prep.), and Brittany Cole (2007-08 & 2006-07, Corona del Sol 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.

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