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**MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Taylor Ziemer of Montgomery High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ziemer is the first Gatorade California Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Montgomery 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 Ziemer as California'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, Ziemer 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 State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-9 senior forward and midfielder scored 19 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Vikings (20-3) to the Sac-Joaquin Section Division I tournament championship game. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team, Ziemer is a four-time All-Empire League selection. She concluded her prep soccer career with 87 goals and 48 assists.

Ziemer has maintained a weighted 4.3 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Taylor's work ethic and dynamic play lifted her teammates to heights they could not have achieved without her," said Pat McDonald, head coach of Montgomery High. "She took on the role of not only scoring key goals but also was instrumental in our offense via her assists."

Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Ziemer inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at the University of Virginia. She graduated from high school in December and began classes in the spring semester.

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 Ziemer joins Gatorade California Girls Soccer Players of the Year MacKenzie Cerda (2013-14, Edison High School), Amber Munerlyn (2012-13, Santiago High School), Ryan Walker-Hartshorn (2011-12, Bishop O'Dowd High School), Lauren Bohaboy (2010-11, Santa Margarita Catholic High School), Abby Dahlkemper (2009-10, Sacred Heart Prep.), Lauren Matheson (2008-09, Mission Viejo High School), Teresa Noyola (2007-08, Palo Alto High School), and Lauren Barnes (2006-07, Upland 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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