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**CASTLE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO 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 Julie Mackin of Castle View High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Mackin is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Castle View 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 Mackin as Colorado’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, Mackin 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-4 senior forward and midfielder scored 14 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Sabercats (10-7) to the second round of the Class 5A state tournament. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women’s National Team, Mackin travelled to Spain to play in the La Manga Tournament in March. A two-time Class 5A Second Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 50 goals and 23 assists.

Mackin has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Sabercat Athletic Leadership Team, she has volunteered locally as a special-needs teaching assistant, as part of community-beautification projects and as a youth soccer coach.

“Julie Mackin’s pace and skill while on the dribble is exceptional,” said Mat Henbest, head coach of Rock Canyon High. “She is the reason for nearly all of the Sabercats’ success. She is a special player.”

Mackin has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Clemson University beginning 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.

Mackin joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School), Kaycie Young (2013-14, Rock Canyon High School), Gabbi Miranda (2012-13, Mountain Vista High School), Janine Beckie (2011-12, Valor Christian High School), Annie Kunz (2010-11 & 2009-10, Wheat Ridge High School), Olivia Wagner (2008-09, Dawson School), Beth West (2007-08, Grandview High School), and Brittney MacDonald (2006-07, J.K. Mullen 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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