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**ROCKWOOD SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Anna Lawler of Rockwood Summit High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Lawler is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rockwood Summit 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 Lawler as Missouri'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, Lawler 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-8 sophomore midfielder led the Falcons to a 22-1-1 record and a berth in the Class 3, District 9 tournament semifinals against Pacific High, scheduled for May 16. At the time of her selection, Lawler had scored six goals and passed for 12 assists from her defensive central midfield position. A 2015 Class 3 First Team All-State selection, she is rated as the No. 45 recruit in the nation for the Class of 2018 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Lawler has maintained a weighted 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Rockwood Summit High Medical Club, she has volunteered locally with her school's Link Crew, helping incoming students transition to high school.

"Anna can play every position on the field and play all of them with confidence and poise," said Gary Schneider, head coach of Eureka High. "I was very impressed with her. Even as a sophomore she's so mature and makes very smart plays that you don't see many high school players do."

Lawler has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Oklahoma State 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.

Lawler joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Dorian Bailey (2014-15 & 2013-14, St. Teresa's Academy), Jaycie Johnson (2012-13, Lee's Summit West High School), Allie Stephenson (2011-12, Lee's Summit North High School), Shea Groom (2010-11 & 2009-10, Liberty High School), Morgan Marlborough (2008-09, Lee's Summit North High School), Molly Campbell (2007-08, St. Teresa's Academy) and Lauren Fowlkes (2006-07, St. Teresa's Academy) 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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