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**MILLARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 17, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brenna Ochoa of Millard West High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ochoa is the third Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard West 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 Ochoa as Nebraska'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, Ochoa 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 midfielder and forward scored 18 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (17-2) to the Class A state tournament semifinals. A 2015 Lincoln Journal Star First Team Super-State selection, she is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program.

Ochoa has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank in addition to donating her time as a youth soccer coach.

"Brenna Ochoa is dangerous all over the field and must be accounted for at all times," said Nathan Moseley, head coach of Westside High. "She directs the attack and clearly has a vision for the field. They would not be nearly as successful without her."

Ochoa has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Ochoa joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Michelle Xiao (2014-15, Westside High School), Maddie Elliston (2013-14 & 2012-13, Marian High School), Jackie Tondl (2011-12, Marian High School), Mayme Conroy (2010-11, Skutt Catholic High School), Katie Pickinpaugh (2009-10, Millard West High School), Allie Adam (2008-09, Millard West High School) and Molly Thomas (2007-08 & 2006-07, Millard North 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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