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**UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Parker Goins of Union High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Goins is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Union 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 Goins as Oklahoma’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, Goins 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 junior forward scored 10 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Redskins to a 19-0 record and the Class 6A state championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Goins is a member of the U.S. Under-18 Women’s National Team and was a First Team All-Metro honoree as a sophomore. She recorded two goals and one assist in the state championship game against Owasso, capping a second consecutive unbeaten season for Union.

Goins has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs and summer camps.

“She has a tremendous ability to finish, even under pressure, and her understanding and vision of the game is pretty amazing,” said Troy Tokarchik, head coach at Bishop Kelley High. “She always finds a way to get involved and she does things you don’t expect.”

Goins will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Goins joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kaylee Dao (2014-15, Jenks High School), Anna Baffer (2013-14, Union High School), Liz Keester (2012-13 & 2010-11, Jenks High School), Kaela Little (2011-12, Bishop Kelley High School), Hayley Harryman (2009-10, Edmond North High School), Caitlin Mooney (2008-09, Edmond Sante Fe High School), Katie Bykowski (2007-08, Bishop Kelley High School), and Rebecca Allen (2006-07, Jenks 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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