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**WAUKESHA WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Dani Rhodes of Waukesha West High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Rhodes is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Waukesha 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 Rhodes as Wisconsin'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, Rhodes 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 had led the Wolverines to a 12-1-2 record at the time of her selection. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Rhodes scored 29 goals and passed for eight assists through 15 games. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she was the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year as a junior.

Rhodes has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. Also a basketball standout, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer and basketball programs.

"She's equally dangerous with her right or left foot and she's very quick," said Drew Baker, head coach at Indian Trail High. "She can create her own shot and mentally she's always thinking ahead."

Rhodes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Two-time winner Rhodes joins Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emily Cervantes (2013-14, Catholic Memorial High School), Josee Stiever (2012-13 & 2011-12, Cedarburg High School), Morgan LaPlant (2010-11, La Follette High School), Alex Melin (2009-10, Verona Area High School), Taylor Madigan (2008-09, Waunakee High School), Laurel Ragalie (2007-08, Bradford High School), and Jennifer Baumann (2006-07, Catholic Memorial 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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