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## **THUNDERRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE COLORADO GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Shae Holmes of ThunderRidge High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Holmes is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from ThunderRidge 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 Holmes 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 June, Holmes joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-8 junior midfielder and forward scored 20 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Grizzlies (13-3-1) to the second round of the Class 5A state tournament. Holmes recorded 27 points despite missing three games while attending a training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team. A defender for the national team, she concluded her junior year with 42 goals and 22 assists in her prep soccer career.

Holmes has volunteered locally with ThunderRidge's peer counseling program and as a youth soccer coach. "Shae drives the engine on that team with her phenomenal midfield skills," said Gonzalo Godinez, head coach of Brighton High School. "Her ability to kick the ball on frame is remarkable and her eagerness to score a goal is impressive."

Holmes has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Washington 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Holmes joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Players of the Year Julie Mackin (2015-16, Castle View High School), 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.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Shae will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

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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