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**WEISER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Lauren Bouvia of Weiser High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Bouvia is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Weiser 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 Bouvia as Idaho'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, Bouvia 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 senior forward scored 98 goals and passed for 26 assists this past season, leading the Wolverines (20-2) to the Class 3A state semifinals. Bouvia recorded at least three goals in every regular-season game including 13 games with five or more goals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Bouvia participated in the High School All-American Game in North Carolina in December. She set a national record as a junior with 127 goals and concluded her career with 311 goals, No. 2 in national prep history.

A member of the Weiser High Science Club, Bouvia has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth soccer coach. She has also completed a service-mission trip to Mexico. "Lauren is one of the best players on the ball I have ever coached," said Brian Smith, Bouvia's club coach with FC Nova. "Lauren has great vision and is a very good passer. She has great pace and strength as well."

The winner of the President's Education Award, Bouvia has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in her class. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of California, Davis 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 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.

Two-time winner Bouvia joins Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sophia Kallas (2014-15, Boise High School), Raimée Sherle (2013-14, Rocky Mountain High School), Kelcie Hedge (2012-13, Post Falls High School), Brooke Heidemann (2011-12, Rocky Mountain High School), Sofia Huerta (2010-11 & 2009-10, Centennial High School), Miah Mollay (2008-09, Boise High School), Halley Kreminski (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Brandy Hickcox (2006-07, Capital High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Lauren 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.

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