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**IOWA CITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Regan Steigleder of Iowa City West High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Steigleder is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Iowa City 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 Steigleder as Iowa'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, Steigleder 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-7 senior midfielder scored 37 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Women of Troy (19-2) to the Class 3A state semifinals. A three-time Mississippi Valley Conference Player of the Year, Steigleder is also a three-time First Team All-State selection by the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches Association. She concluded her prep soccer career with 90 goals and 26 assists.

An outdoor enthusiast, Steigleder has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research and at a preschool in addition to donating her time with Best Buddies. "Regan is the engine driving the success at ICW," said Chris Kowalski, head coach of Cedar Falls High School. "She is a champion in every sense of the word and I remember telling her coach last year 'Figure out a way to graduate her early.' Regan is the fulcrum and anchor of that team."

Steigleder has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Northwestern University 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.

Steigleder joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year Meg Brandt (2015-16 & 2014-15, Ankeny Centennial High School), Rose Ripslinger (2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Assumption High School), MacKenzie Misel (2009-10, Ankeny High School), Jade Grimm (2008-09, Kennedy High School), and Whitney Sharpe (2007-08 & 2006-07, Valley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Regan 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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