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**WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Kirsten Davis of Westminster Christian Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Davis is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Westminster Christian Academy.

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 Davis as Missouri'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, Davis 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-9 senior forward scored 53 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (18-2) to the Class 3, District 4 tournament final. Davis scored in every game but one and recorded 15 multi-goal games, including nine with at least three tallies. The 2017 Missouri Class 3 Player of the Year, Davis traveled to Northern Ireland in October to play in a tournament with the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team. She concluded her prep soccer career with 172 goals and 34 assists.

Davis has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and on behalf of the Salvation Army. "Kirsten Davis truly has it all," said Annie Wayland, head coach of Parkway West High School. "She's physical, strong, confident, aggressive, a playmaker, a finisher and a leader. She is the ideal all-around player to have on any team."

Davis has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Texas Tech 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.

Davis joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Anna Lawler (2015-16, Rockwood Summit High School), Dorian Bailey (2014-15 & 2013-14, St. Teresa's Academy), Jaycie Johnson (2012-13, Lee's Summit West High School), Allie Stephenson (2011-12, Lee's Summit North High School), Shea Groom (2010-11 & 2009-10, Liberty High School), Morgan Marlborough (2008-09, Lee's Summit North High School), Molly Campbell (2007-08, St. Teresa's Academy), and Lauren Fowlkes (2006-07, St. Teresa's Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kirsten 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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