

**Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)**

**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Alexa Coyle of Bozeman High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Coyle is the fifth Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Coyle as Montana'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, Coyle 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-10 senior midfielder led the Hawks to a 15-0-2 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Coyle scored 29 goals and passed for 15 assists, including two goals and four assists in Bozeman's three-game postseason run to the state title. The Montana Soccer Coaches Association's Player of the Year, she is a two-time First Team All-State honoree and a National Soccer Coaches of Association of America All-Northwest Region selection.

The younger sister of Seattle Seahawks linebacker Brock Coyle, she has volunteered locally for a domestic violence center and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through the Bozeman High School National Honor Society. Coyle has been a competitive Alpine ski racer since she was in junior high and was a finalist for the US Ski Team that participated in the Youth Olympic Games in 2016. "Alexa is an extremely well-rounded player," said Megan Parish, head coach of Billings Senior High School. "She can shoot the ball from deep and can beat players off the dribble. She is difficult to defend because she is such a skilled scorer."

Coyle has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Montana 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.

Coyle joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Brittany Delridge (2015-16, Sentinel High School), Averie Collins (2014-15, Bozeman High School), Maddy Emerick (2013-14, Billings Senior High School), Rachel Koehler (2012-13, Billings Senior High School), Savannah Witt (2011-12, Billings West High School), Jackie Elliott (2010-11, Billings Central Catholic High School), Tess Hagenlock (2009-10, Bozeman High School), Lauren Hickok (2008-09, Bozeman High School), Meghan O'Connell (2007-08, Flathead High School), and Kirsten Tilleman (2006-07, Bozeman High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Alexa 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).

###