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**PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Marykate McGuire of Portsmouth High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year. McGuire is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Portsmouth 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 McGuire as Rhode Island'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, McGuire 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 three-time returning Gatorade Player of the Year, 5-foot-6 junior midfielder led the Patriots to a 17-2-2 record and the Division I state championship this past season. McGuire scored 31 goals and passed for nine assists despite missing the first 10 games of the season because of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League's transfer rules. McGuire won the Gatorade award as a freshman at Portsmouth High and as a sophomore at St. George's School in Middletown. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she concluded her junior year with 81 goals and 25 assists in her prep soccer career.

McGuire has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives with her church youth group. "Marykate McGuire scored 31 goals in half a season; to me, that is just remarkable and unheard of," said Martin Yarumian, head coach of Bay View Academy. "She was the reason the Portsmouth girls took the title again. She is the most dominant and impactful player in the league."

McGuire has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Duke University 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.

Three-time winner McGuire joins Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kara Shaw (2013-14, Exeter-West Greenwich High School), Madison Damm (2012-13, North Kingstown High School), McKenzie Meehan (2011-12 & 2010-11, La Salle Academy), Allison Kelley (2009-10 & 2008-09, La Salle Academy), Katie Reilly (2007-08, St. Mary Academy-Bay View), and Erica Florenz (2006-07, Scituate High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Marykate 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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