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**PROSPER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Diana Ordonez of Prosper High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ordonez is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Prosper 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 Ordonez as Texas' 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, Ordonez 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-11 sophomore forward scored 32 goals and passed for 24 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (26-1-1) to the Class 5A, Region 2 championship game. The 2017 District 14-5A MVP and the 2016 District 10-5A Newcomer of the Year, Ordonez scored a goal in 20 of the 25 games she played. Rated as the No. 37 recruit in the Class of 2019 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, she participated in a training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team in May.

Ordonez has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research and has donated her time as a youth soccer coach and mentor. "Diana is an incredible player to watch," said Heather Medlen, head coach of Creekview High School. "She is a true leader vocally and by example and helped lead Prosper to their best season ever. Diana adds this extra level to their game."

Ordonez has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Texas A&M University beginning in the fall of 2019.

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.

Ordonez joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Cyera Hintzen (2015-16, SacHigh Schoole High School), Jordie Harr (2014-15 & 2013-14, SacHigh Schoole High School), Katie Martin (2012-13, Highland Park High School), Jana Jeffrey (2011-12, Ursuline Academy), Meghan Streight (2010-11, McKinney Boyd High School), Chioma Ubogagu (2009-10, Coppell High School), Alina Garciamendez-Rowold (2008-09, Ursuline Academy), Ashley Rape (2007-08, Greenhill School), and Melissa Henderson (2006-07, Berkner High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Diana 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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