

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

**WINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Mary Lawman of Winfield High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Lawman is the fifth Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Winfield 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 Lawman as West Virginia'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, Lawman 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 and forward led the Generals to a 22-2 record and the Group AA-A state championship this past season. Lawman scored 34 goals and 19 assists as Winfield won its fourth straight state title, having 3-peated in Group AAA before dropping down a classification last fall. A four-time First Team All-State selection, Lawman was the Group AA-A Player of the Year as a senior. She concluded her prep soccer career with 120 goals and 46 assists.

A member of the Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, Lawman has volunteered locally at an animal shelter and as a youth soccer coach. "Mary is a great player, team leader and simply a phenomenal athlete," said Marshall Hoff, head coach of Winfield High School. "She knows how to get the best out of her teammates."

Lawman has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Marshall 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.

Lawman joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jordan Pauley (2015-16, Winfield High School), Jayne Lawman (2014-15 & 2013-14, Winfield High School), Michelle Newhouse (2012-13, Capital High School), Haleigh Hoff (2011-12, Winfield High School), Sami Molina (2010-11, Cabell Midland High School), Whitney Cavender (2009-10, University High School), Sarah Cogswell (2008-09, Jefferson High School), Megan Johnson (2007-08, George Washington High School), and Kim Abcouwer (2006-07, Charleston Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Mary 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).