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**WHITEFISH BAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Taylor Kerwin of Whitefish Bay High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kerwin is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Whitefish Bay 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 Kerwin as Wisconsin'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, Kerwin 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-7 senior forward had led the Blue Dukes to a 20-1-2 record and the Division 2 semifinals at the time of her selection. Kerwin scored 43 goals and passed for 9 assists through 23 games. She is the North Shore Conference Player of the Year.

A member of her school's Student Council, Kerwin has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and a toy-donation drive. "Taylor Kerwin is a special, special player," said Robert Williams, head coach at Cedarburg High School. "She's very dynamic on the ball and an excellent finisher. She reads the game so well, makes smart runs and doesn't waste a lot of movement. She takes that team to another level."

Kerwin has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

Kerwin joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Dani Rhodes (2015-16 & 2014-15, Waukesha West High School), Emily Cervantes (2013-14, Catholic Memorial High School), Josee Stiever (2012-13 & 2011-12, Cedarburg High School), Morgan LaPlant (2010-11, La Follette High School), Alex Melin (2009-10, Verona Area High School), Taylor Madigan (2008-09, Waunakee High School), Laurel Ragalie (2007-08, Bradford High School), and Jennifer Baumann (2006-07, Catholic Memorial High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Taylor 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.