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PADUA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Ashlee Brentlinger of Padua Academy** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Brentlinger is the fifth Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Padua Academy.

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 Brentlinger as Delaware'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, Brentlinger 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 (2004-05, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-4 senior midfielder scored 15 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Pandas (17-1) to the Division I state championship. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, Brentlinger was named Player of the Year by the Delaware High School Girls Soccer Coaches Association.

A tutor in her school, Brentlinger has volunteered locally on behalf of West End Neighborhood House, Ronald McDonald House Charities and youth soccer camps. "Brentlinger has great finishing ability coupled with strong possession and distribution skills," said Wes Kendle, head coach at Appoquinimink High. "She's a complete player."

Brentlinger has maintained a 4.23 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Florida Gulf Coast University 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.

Brentlinger joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alyssa Poarch (2016-17, Middletown High School), Brooke Beam (2015-16, Indian River High School), Karlina Panella (2014-15, Padua Academy), Alexis Prillaman (2013-14 & 2012-13, Caesar Rodney High School), Casey Horney (2011-12, Padua Academy), Caitlin Forte (2010-11, Indian River High School), Jazmine Reeves (2009-10 & 2008-09, Caesar Rodney), Morgan Morrow (2007-08, Padua Academy), and Brittiny Rhoades (2006-07, Padua Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brentlinger 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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