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SACRED HEART ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Cassie Amshoff of Sacred Heart Academy** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Amshoff is the fifth Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sacred Heart 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 Amshoff as Kentucky'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, Amshoff 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-7 senior midfielder and forward scored 25 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Valkyries (22-3) to the Kentucky state championship game. A two-time All-American selection by United Soccer Coaches, Amshoff was also a three-time First Team All-State honoree and twice named the Region 7 Player of the Year. She concluded her prep soccer career with 69 goals and 30 assists.

Amshoff has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity and as a youth tutor. "Cassie's versatility sets her apart," said Cy Tucker, head coach of Assumption High. "She is a great player who you would feel confident putting at any position."

Amshoff has maintained a weighted 4.05 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

Amshoff joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Players of the Year Eva Mitchell (2016-17, West Jessamine High School), Emina Ekic (2015-16, duPont Manual High School), Stephanie Rowland (2014-15, South Oldham High School), Mallory Eubanks (2013-14, Tates Creek High School), Libby Leedom (2012-13 & 2011-12, St. Henry District High School), Arin Gilliland (2010-11, West Jessamine High School), Jackie Hafele (2009-10, Sacred Heart Academy), Nikki Hafele (2008-09, Sacred Heart Academy), Jenna Goblirsch (2007-08, Elizabethtown High School), and Sydney Hiance (2006-07, Highlands High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Amshoff 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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