

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Jansen Eichenlaub of Marian High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Eichenlaub is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marian 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 Eichenlaub as Michigan’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, Eichenlaub 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-6 junior forward had led the Mustangs to a 19-0-1 record and a berth in the Division 2, Regional 6 championship game at the time of her selection. Eichenlaub scored 29 goals and passed for nine assists through 20 games. She tallied eight multi-goal games, including five hat tricks, despite missing five contests with a pulled hamstring. A 2017 Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association Dream Team honoree, she entered the regional final with 74 goals and 30 assists in her prep soccer career.

A self-taught computer coder, Eichenlaub writes her own music and produces her own videos. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and has donated her time as part of multiple community service initiatives through the Marian High National Honor Society. “Jansen is the most talented player that I saw all year,” said Matt Carroll, head coach of Gabriel Richard High. “Technically she is superb and then she has the speed and strength to dominate the run of play.”

Eichenlaub has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Eichenlaub joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emily Ashby (2016-17, Forest Hills Northern High School), Hannah Jones (2015-16 & 2014-15, Port Huron Northern High School), Megan Buckingham (2013-14, Northville High School), Madi Lewis (2012-13 & 2011-12, Plymouth High School), Olivia Brannon (2010-11, Athens High School), Annie Steinlage (2009-10 & 2008-09, Spring Lake High School), and Laura Heyboer (2007-08 & 2006-07, Unity Christian High School) among the state’s list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Eichenlaub 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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