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BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Ashton Gordon of Booker T. Washington High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Gordon is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Booker T. Washington 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 Gordon as Oklahoma'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, Gordon 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-11 sophomore defender scored 12 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Hornets (16-2) to the Class 5A state championship. A two-time First Team All-District honoree, Gordon was an All-World First Team selection by the Tulsa World, and was named the Jim Thorpe Female Player of the Year in soccer.

Gordon has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, Wreaths Across America, Daughters of the American Revolution and youth soccer camps. "Ashton Gordon is a dynamic player with a commanding presence," said Curtis Cook, head coach at Metro Christian Academy. "She plays with a fierce passion and outstanding set of skills, both on the ball and off. She's an excellent defender who controls the back line, and her ability to come off the line and create scoring runs is fun to watch."

Gordon has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Gordon joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Malham (2016-17, Union High School), Parker Goins (2015-16, Union High School), Kaylee Dao (2014-15, Jenks High School), Anna Baffer (2013-14, Union High School), Liz Keester (2012-13, Jenks High School), Kaela Little (2011-12, Bishop Kelley High School), Liz Keester (2010-11, Jenks High School), Hayley Harryman (2009-10, Edmond North High School), Caitlin Mooney (2008-09, Edmond Sante Fe High School), Katie Bykowski (2007-08, Bishop Kelley High School), and Rebecca Allen (2006-07, Jenks High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Gordon 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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