

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

## **JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Sydney Collins of Jesuit High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Collins is the sixth Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Collins as Oregon'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, Collins 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-8 senior defender led the Crusaders to a 19-0 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Collins anchored a defense that allowed just two goals in 19 games, and she chipped in offensively with three goals and five assists. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Collins participated in the 2017 High School All-American Game and was named the game's top defender. She is rated as the nation's No. 106 recruit in the Class of 2018 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Collins has volunteered locally at a summer camp for children with Muscular Dystrophy, and she has donated her time as part of multiple fundraisers to benefit Alzheimer's research. "Sydney's ability on the field as a defensive player speaks for itself in the high number of shutouts and tiny goals against tally that her defense has allowed," said Steve Fennah, head coach of Jesuit High. "She has been a dominant force."

Collins has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of California-Berkeley 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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kaillen Fried (2016-17, Sherwood High School), Lucy Davidson (2015-16 & 2014-15, Scappoose High School), Jill Farley (2013-14, Tualatin High School), Ashlee Schulz (2012-13, Thurston High School), Anna-Marie Popma (2011-12, Tualatin High School), Maryn Beutler (2010-11, Bend Senior High School), Sarah Bridges (2009-10, Jesuit High School), Kendall Johnson (2008-09, Lincoln High School), and Courtney Verloo (2007-08 & 2006-07,, Tualatin High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Collins 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###