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HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Jenna Kemp of Houston High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Kemp is the third Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Houston 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 Kemp as Tennessee'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, Kemp 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 junior midfielder led the Mustangs to a 25-0 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Kemp scored 20 goals and passed for 19 assists for a Houston team that outscored its opponents, 117-9, on the season. An All-American selection by United Soccer Coaches, Kemp is a two-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her junior year with 36 goals and 35 assists in her prep soccer career.

Kemp has volunteered locally with Missions of Mercy, which provides free dentistry to those in need. She has also donated her time as a coach for the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities. "Jenna Kemp was by far the best player I saw," said Kristin Reich, head coach of Germantown High. "She dominated the games we played against Houston."

Kemp has maintained a weighted 4.20 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Memphis 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.

Kemp joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Players of the Year Karlie Paschall (2016-17 & 2014-15, Ravenwood High School), Gabby Little (2015-16, Houston High School), Josie Jennings (2013-14, Farragut High School), Summer Lanter (2012-13, Soddy Daisy High School), Olivia Harrison (2011-12, Houston High School), Kat Nigro (2010-11 & 2009-10, Livingston Academy), Susannah Dennis (2008-09 & 2007-08, Battle Ground Academy), and Kelly Dyer (2006-07, St. Agnes Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kemp 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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