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CHIAWANA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Summer Yates of Chiawana High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Yates is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Chiawana 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 Yates as Washington'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, Yates 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-4 senior forward scored 30 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Riverhawks (14-6) to the Class 4A state tournament. Yates missed six games due to multiple commitments to the U.S. Soccer Under-18 and Under-19 Women's National Team, including a September trip to China. The Mid-Columbia Conference Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 100 goals and 39 assists.

A member of Chiawana's Student Advanced Leadership committee, Yates has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth soccer coach. "Summer's ability to consistently beat one, two or three-plus defenders proved incredibly difficult to deal with," said Justin Almquist, head coach of Richland High. "She would either create shots for herself or create dangerous scoring chances as defenders flocked to her."

Yates has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

Yates joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jojo Harber (2016-17, Bellevue High School), Sam Hiatt (2015-16, Seattle Preparatory School), Kelsey Turnbow (2014-15 & 2013-14, Central Valley High School), Audrey Thomas (2012-13, Issaquah High School), Isabel Farrell (2011-12, Interlake High School), Brooke Gilbert (2010-11, Glacier Peak High School), Lindsay Elston (2009-10, Eastlake), Emily Hurd (2008-09, Eastlake High School), and Kate Deines (2007-08 & 2006-07, Issaquah High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Yates 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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