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CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Emilie Charles of Cabell Midland High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Charles is the second Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cabell Midland 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 Charles as West Virginia'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, Charles 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 sophomore forward led the Knights to an 18-5-1 record and the Group AAA state championship this past season. Charles scored 49 goals and passed for 16 assists, including scoring all four of her team's goals throughout the state quarterfinals, semifinals and final. The West Virginia Sports Writers Association's Player of the Year, Charles was also the West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association's Group AAA Forward of the Year. She concluded her sophomore year with 78 goals and 31 assists in her prep soccer career.

Charles has volunteered locally with the Eastern Cabell County Humanities Organization and at a homeless shelter. She has also donated her time as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "There's not another player in the state that can do what Emilie does," said Eric McCoy, head coach of Parkersburg High.

Ranked No. 1 in her class, Charles has maintained a weighted 4.59 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.

Charles joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mary Lawman (2016-17, Winfield High School), Jordan Pauley (2015-16, Winfield High School), Jayne Lawman (2014-15 & 2013-14, Winfield High School), Michelle Newhouse (2012-13, Capital High School), Haleigh Hoff (2011-12, Winfield High School), Sami Molina (2010-11, Cabell Midland High School), Whitney Cavender (2009-10, University), Sarah Cogswell (2008-09, Jefferson High School), Megan Johnson (2007-08, George Washington High School), and Kim Abcouwer (2006-07, Charleston Catholic) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Charles 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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