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BROOKFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Brandi Thomsen of Brookfield Central High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Thomsen is the third Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Brookfield Central 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 Thomsen as Wisconsin'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, Thomsen 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-10 senior midfielder had led the Lancers to a 16-1-1 record and the Division 2 semifinals at the time of her selection. Thomsen scored 15 goals and passed for eight assists through 18 games. A First Team All-State honoree, she was the Greater Metro Player of the Year and was also named Player of the Year by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

A devoted member of her church community, Thomsen has volunteered locally on behalf of youth summer camps. "I think Brandi Thomsen is the best player in the state right now," said Rob Lestina, head coach at Kettle Moraine High. "She's strong, fast, athletic and she never stops running. She likes to take people on, but she's a great passer too, and she's such a fierce competitor."

Thomsen has maintained a 4.33 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Cincinnati 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.

Thomsen joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Kerwin (2016-17, Whitefish Bay High School), Dani Rhodes (2015-16 & 2014-15, Waukesha West High School), Emily Cervantes (2013-14, Catholic Memorial High School), Josee Stiever (2012-13 & 2011-12, Cedarburg High School), Morgan LaPlant (2010-11, La Follette High School), Alex Melin (2009-10, Verona Area), Taylor Madigan (2008-09, Waunakee), Laurel Ragalie (2007-08, Bradford), and Jennifer Baumann (2006-07, Catholic Memorial) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Thomsen 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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