SYRACUSE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 13, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Caroline Stringfellow of Syracuse High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year.** Stringfellow is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Syracuse 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 Stringfellow as Utah'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, Stringfellow joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-4 sophomore midfielder and forward scored 22 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Titans (17-2) to the Class 6A state tournament semifinals. The Deseret News Ms. Soccer winner, Stringfellow was also the 2017 Salt Lake Tribune Player of the Year. Ranked as the No. 43 recruit in the Class of 2021 by TopDrawerSoccer.com. She concluded her sophomore year with 51 goals and 48 assists.

Stringfellow has volunteered locally at a senior care center, and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Caroline had a big impact on her team; she is integral to their success," said Souli Phongsavath, head coach of Davis High School. "She is so tough to stop offensively. We had to specifically game plan around her."

Stringfellow has maintained a 3.01 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at Brigham Young University beginning in the fall of 2021.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Stringfellow joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jamie Shepherd (2017-18, American Fork High School), Olivia Wade (2016-17, Davis High School), Holly Daugirda (2015-16, Skyline High School), Hailey Skolmoski (2014-15, Riverton High School) and Bizzy Phillips (2013-14, Alta High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Stringfellow also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>www.Gatorade.com/POY</u>, on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> or follow us on Twitter at <u>www.twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.

###