JACKSON HOLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 20, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ruby Hoelscher** of **Jackson Hole High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Hoelscher is the first Gatorade Wyoming Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson Hole High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Hoelscher as Wyoming's best high school girls soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Aly Wagner (1997-98, Presentation High School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.) and Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-5 freshman attacking midfielder led the Broncs (16-2-2) to the Class 4A state title game this past season, scoring 28 goals and passing for 15 assists. Hoelscher scored seven goals and recorded four assists in Jackson Hole's six-game postseason run. A First Team All-State selection as the state leader in goals this spring, she is a member of the Region IV Olympic Development Team and was invited to the 2024 United States Youth Soccer Association ODP National Camp.

A member of her school's varsity ski team, Hoelscher has donated her time tutoring Spanish-speaking peers who are English Language Learners in addition to tutoring in math, science and social studies. A member of her school's literary magazine staff, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. She also holds down a summer job with Bistro Catering in Jackson. "Ruby's commitment to discipline, competition and sportsmanship standards often exceed those around her," said Eric Simmondsen, director for the Boise Timbers | Thorns club team. "A team player who works relentlessly on and off the ball while also scoring goals and providing assists, Ruby works equally as hard in the defensive third."

Hoelscher has maintained a 4.14 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore year of high school this fall.

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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Hoelscher joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Soccer Players of the Year Ally Boysen (2022-23, Cody High School), Cena Carlson (2021-22, Thunder Basin High School), Emily Taucher (2020-21, Rock Springs High School) and Alyssa Bedard (2019-20, Rock Springs High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.