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**ST. BENEDICT'S PREP STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW JERSEY BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Sebastian Chalbaud of St. Benedict's Prep as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Chalbaud is the seventh Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Benedict's Prep.

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 Chalbaud as New Jersey's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Chalbaud 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 (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-10, 155-pound senior midfielder led the Gray Bees to a 19-0 record and the Prep A state championship this past season. Chalbaud scored 12 goals and passed for nine assists in his only season at St. Benedict's Prep. A member of the Venezuelan Under-17 Men's National Team, he was a First Team All-American as named by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Chalbaud has volunteered locally at a food pantry and as a youth soccer coach. "Sebastian is a complete footballer who raises the level of play around him," said Pete McClellan, head coach of the Peddie School. "He helps others around him play the possession game."

Chalbaud, who moved to the United States less than a year ago without knowing English, has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Chalbaud joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Players of the Year Mason Toye (2016-17, Seton Hall Preparatory School), Johnny Antunes (2015-16, St. Benedict's Prep), Brian Hawkins (2014-15, Notre Dame High School), James Murphy (2013-14, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School), Brian Costa (2012-13, Pingry School), Christiano Francois (2011-12, St. Benedict's Prep.), Dan Metzger (2010-11, Holmdel High School), Jon Aguirre (2009-10, Madison High School), Rafael Diaz (2008-09, Morris Hills), Matt Kassel (2007-08, Bridgewater-Raritan), and Brayan Martinez (2006-07, West Orange) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Chalbaud 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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