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## **ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Riane Coman of Academic Magnet High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Coman is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Academic Magnet 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 Coman as South Carolina'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, Coman 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-6 junior forward and midfielder led the Raptors to a 21-4-1 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Coman scored 52 goals and passed for 15 assists. She netted 15 multi-goal games, including 10 hat tricks. The two-time Post and Courier's All-Lowcountry Player of the Year, Coman was also the 2017 Class AA Player of the Year. She concluded her junior year with 121 goals and 42 assists in her prep soccer career.

A member of the French National Honor Society, Coman leads a small faith-based group that meets weekly before school. She has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and served a mission trip to the Bahamas. "Riane Coman is as good as advertised," said Emily Heise, head coach of Gray Collegiate School. "She is a very dangerous finisher but her speed on the ball makes her filthy. She goes right at defenders daring them to bite and when they do she punishes them."

Coman has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of South Carolina beginning in the fall of 2019.

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.

Coman joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caroline Conti (2016-17, J.L. Mann Academy), Kasey Parker (2015-16 & 2014-15, Dreher High School), Jeni Erickson (2013-14, J.L. Mann Academy), Chelsea Drennan (2012-13, T.L. Hanna High School), Stephanie DeVita (2011-12, 2010-11 & 2009-10, Hillcrest High School), Sarah Schaidle (2008-09, Mauldin), and Kira Campbell (2007-08 & 2006-07, Lexington) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Coman 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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