FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

St. Joseph High School STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE Connecticut GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (February 4, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced **Jenna Bike of St. Joseph High School** as its **2015-16 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Bike is the third Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph 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 Bike as Connecticut’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 May, Bike joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O’Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 senior forward led the Cadets to a 22-1 record and the Class L state championship this past season. Bike scored 25 goals and passed for five assists, including a goal and an assist in St. Joseph’s 2-0 win over Suffield High in the state final. The 2015 National Soccer Coaches Association of America National High School Player of the Year, Bike is a member of both the U.S. Soccer Under-19 and Under-18 Women’s National Teams. She concluded her prep soccer career with 79 goals and 45 assists.

Bike has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with a fundraising campaign to benefit the Special Olympics. She has also donated her time to Habitat for Humanity and as a youth soccer coach.

“Over the past nine years, Jenna Bike is one of the best that I have seen on the soccer field,” said Tom Cunningham, head coach of Fairfield Warde High. “She had a tremendous season leading her team to a state championship.”

Bike has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Boston College beginning this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](http://www.gatorade.com/poy/overview.aspx) 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](http://www.usatodayhss.com/customize), 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.

Two-time winner Bike joins Gatorade Connecticut Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sarah McCauley (2013-14 & 2012-13, Chase Collegiate School), Paula Hagopian (2011-12, Kingswood Oxford School), Riley Houle (2010–11, Windham High School), Kate McCarthy (2009-10, The Loomis Chaffee School), Jessica Schloth (2008–09, St. Joseph High School), Alex Uscilla (2007-08, St. Joseph High School), and Bianca D’Agostino (2006-07, Loomis Chaffee School) among the state’s list of former award winners.

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)*.*

###