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**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 17, 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 Bella Dorosy of St. Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Dorosy is the third Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Thomas Aquinas 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 Dorosy as Florida’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, Dorosy 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 5-foot-6 junior forward scored 37 goals and passed for 23 assists this past season, leading the Raiders (22-1-1) to the Class 4A state semifinals. A two-time All-Broward County Player of the Year, Dorosy was a 2015-16 Class 4A First Team All-State selection. She concluded her junior year with 84 goals and 47 assists in her prep soccer career.

Dorosy has maintained a weighted 3.83 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of community-beautification projects and as a youth soccer coach.

“Bella Dorosy is just a different kind of player,” said David Seevers, head coach of Pace High. “She has all the elements of a great player, and she knows when and how to use those abilities to greatest effect. My defenders simply didn’t have an answer for her.”

Dorosy has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Florida State University beginning in the fall of 2017.

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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Dorosy joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Chelsea Burns (2014-15, St. Johns Country Day School), Bri Folds (2013-14, Lakeland Christian School), Jessie Scarpa (2012-13, George Jenkins High School), Carson Pickett (2011-12, St. John’s Country Day School), Meg Casscells-Hamby (2010-11, Trinity Preparatory School), Katie Stengel (2009-10, Viera High School), Laura Weinberg (2008-09, Saint Andrew’s School), Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite High School), and Ella Stephan (2006-07, Satellite High 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.

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