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**TRINITY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Maycee Bell of Trinity Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Bell is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Academy.

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 Bell as Kansas’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, Bell 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.).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-9 freshman forward had led the Knights to an 11-3 record entering the Class 4A-1A Central/South Central Regional 2 Tournament semifinals against El Dorado High, scheduled for May 16. Bell scored 19 goals and passed for six assists through 14 games. She has travelled to Italy to play with the U.S. Soccer Under-16 Girls National Team, and Bell was recently called to a national camp with the Under-17 Women’s National Team. She is rated as the No. 4 recruit in the nation for the Class of 2019 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Bell has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with FaithBuilders, a ministry that helps orphans and families in crisis. She has also donated her time at a homeless shelter and food bank.

“Maycee Bell is one of the best high school talents I have seen in the last 10 years,” said Trey Crow, head coach of Salina South High. “I haven’t seen anyone that we have played that is as technical, athletic and well-rounded as she is.”

Bell has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of North 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 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.

Bell joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Parker Roberts (2014-15 & 2013-14, Blue Valley North High School), Haley Hanson (2012-13, Olathe East High School), Lexi Aiman (2011-12, Blue Valley West High School), Hannah Chadick (2010-11, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Ashley Catrell (2009-10, Blue Valley West High School), Jordan Jackson (2008-09 & 2007-08, Blue Valley West High School), and Geneva Magness (2006-07, St. Thomas Aquinas 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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