

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729- 3656)**

**BEN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE LOUISIANA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 17, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Cadie Higginson of Ben Franklin High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Higginson is the second Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Ben Franklin 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 Higginson as Louisiana’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, Higginson 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 senior forward scored 55 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Falcons (21-1-1) to their fourth consecutive Division II state championship. A First Team All-State honoree, Higginson was also selected Division II Offensive MVP by the Louisiana High School Soccer Coaches Association and was named the All-Metro Offensive Player of the Year.

Higginson has maintained a 4.38 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of coastal restoration initiatives and the Korean War Veterans Association.

“Cadie Higginson is very versatile and she’s got great technical ability,” said Wes Leake, head coach at Lakeshore High. “I mean, what couldn’t she do? She’s just a smart player with great vision.”

Higginson will attend the United States Naval Academy this fall, where she will play soccer.

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.

Higginson joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alex Thomas (2014-15 & 2013-14, Ben Franklin High School), Delaney Sheehan (2012-13 & 2011-12, Mandeville High School), Katherine Cuntz (2010-11, St. Mary’s Dominican High School), Emily Cancienne (2009-10, Baton Rouge Magnet), Tricia Johnson (2008-09, St. Scholastica Academy), Kellie Murphy (2007-08, St. Thomas More Catholic High School) and Hannah Macormic (2006-07, Mandeville 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###