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WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 12, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Juan Louis of Washburn High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Louis is the second Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Washburn 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 Louis as Minnesota's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Louis 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 (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-10, 150-pound senior forward scored 27 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Millers (12-6) to the sectional finals. Minnesota's Class AA Mr. Soccer, Louis is a First Team All-Metro selection, a three-time All-State honoree and played in the 2016 High School All-American game.

Louis has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs and Feed My Starving Children. "Juan Louis is a true difference-maker and a very dangerous player," said Tamba Johnson, head coach at Blake School. "He scores in bunches and he can instantly change a game."

Louis has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Drake University this fall.

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.

Louis joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Suad Suljic (2015-16 & 2014-15, Minnetonka High School), Justin Oliver (2013-14, North High School), Elliot Cassutt (2012-13, Minneapolis South High School), Matthew Gweh (2011-12, Eastview High School), Eric Miller (2010-11, Woodbury High School), Paul Yonga (2009-10 & 2008-09, Totino-Grace High School), Keidoe Pour (2007-08, Saint Bernard's School), and Abe Gibbons (2006-07, South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Juan 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.

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