

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

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

CHICAGO (June 19, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Bella Dorosy of St. Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2016-17 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 June, Dorosy 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 senior forward led the Raiders to a 22-1-2 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Dorosy scored 39 goals and passed for 26 assists, including nine goals and five assists in Aquinas' five-game run to the state title. The 2017 Class 4A Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 123 goals and 73 assists.

Dorosy has volunteered locally as part of community-beautification projects and as a youth soccer coach. "Bella is the most dynamic player I have seen in my coaching career," said Tony Iannitti, head coach of South Fork High School. "When she is on the field she demands every bit of respect and attention due to her tremendous ball skills, passing ability and powerful and precise shot."

Dorosy has maintained a weighted 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Florida State University beginning 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.

Two-time winner Dorosy joins 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.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Bella 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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