

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Audrey Viso of St. Joseph's Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Viso is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph's 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 Viso 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 June, Viso 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-5 senior midfielder scored six goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Red Stickers (16-7-3) to the Division I quarterfinals. The Division I Offensive Player of the Year, Viso was also named District MVP, All-Metro MVP and MVP of the state All-Star Game.

Viso has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and community-beautification projects. "Audrey Viso is a talented and selfless player," said Sheila Achee, head coach at Baton Rouge High School. "She's always a threat on offense, but she's also a beast defensively."

Viso has maintained a weighted 4.05 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Clemson 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.

Viso joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Cadie Higginson (2015-16, Ben Franklin High School), 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 High School), 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.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Audrey 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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