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**VILLA JOSEPH MARIE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Murphy Agnew of Villa Joseph Marie High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Agnew is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Villa Joseph Marie 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 Agnew as Pennsylvania'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, Agnew 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-4 senior forward and defender scored 29 goals and 15 assists this past season, leading the Jems (21-2-1) to the Class AAA state championship game. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region I Olympic Development Program team, Agnew participated in the High School All-American Game in North Carolina in December. A three-time national championship tournament MVP with her club team, she concluded her prep soccer career with 101 goals and 49 assists.

A prolific artist with an extensive portfolio, Agnew has volunteered locally as a math and science tutor and youth soccer coach. She has also donated her time as part of multiple community-service projects through her school and church. "Murphy Agnew is a once-in-a-lifetime player you get to see as a coach," said Tom Knoll, head coach of Gwynedd Mercy High School. "You have to game-plan around her. She could control a game just by herself."

Agnew has maintained a weighted 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to attend Harvard University, where she will play soccer, 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.

Agnew joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Players of the Year Rachael Dorwart (2015-16, Cumberland Valley High School), Sydney Zandi (2014-15, Henderson High School), Megan Schafer (2013-14, Neshaminy High School), Veronica Latsko (2012-13 & 2011-12, Peters Township High School), Kelly Kerrigan (2010-11, Downingtown High School East), Cassie Pecht (2009-10, Cumberland Valley High School), Taylor Schram (2008-09, Canon-McMillan High School), Lauren Alwine (2007-08, Lower Dauphin High School), and Colleen Flanagan (2006-07, Downingtown West High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Murphy 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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