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ST. JOHNS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Abbey Newton of St. Johns Country Day School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Newton is the third Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Johns Country Day 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 Newton 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, Newton 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 (2004-05, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-6 senior midfielder led the Spartans to a 26-0 record and a seventh straight Class 1A state championship this past season. Newton scored 35 goals and passed for 26 assists, and tallied a goal and three assists in a 6-0 win over Miami Country Day School in the state final. The 2018 Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Soccer winner, Newton is a two-time Florida Times Union Player of the Year honoree. She concluded her seven-year high school varsity soccer career with 134 goals and 124 assists.

Newton has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach. "Abbey Newton is an explosive, fast goal-scorer," said Brent Johnson, head coach of Creekside High. "Her pace is electric."

Newton has maintained a weighted 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Louisiana State 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.

Newton joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Bella Dorosy (2016-17 & 2015-16, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), 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), Laura Weinberg (2008-09, Saint Andrew's School), Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite), and Ella Stephan (2006-07, Satellite) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Newton 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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