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## **ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Sydney Vincens of St. Scholastica Academy** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Vincens is the second Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Scholastica 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 Vincens 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, Vincens 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 6-foot junior forward and midfielder scored 27 goals and passed for 16 assists this past season, leading the Doves (20-1-3) to the Division I state championship. The Division I Offensive Player of the Year, Vincens was also named District MVP and All-Metro MVP.

A devoted member of her church youth group, Vincens has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and summer youth camps. "Sydney Vincens just keeps getting better and better," said Lisa Levermann, head coach at Byrd High. "She's extremely tall but she's also very agile and fast, and everything goes through her. I think she's the best player in the state."

Vincens has maintained a weighted 4.37 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Vincens joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Audrey Viso (2016-17, St. Joseph's Academy), 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, Vincens 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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