## COR JESU ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Maddie DiMaria** of **Cor Jesu Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes DiMaria as Missouri's best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Morgan Gautrat (2010-11, Frederica Academy, Ga.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.), Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The returning Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 sophomore forward and midfielder led the Chargers to a 22-1 record and the Class 4 state championship this past season. DiMaria scored 45 goals and passed for 19 assists, including two goals and one assist in Cor Jesu's 4-0 win over St. Dominic High School in the state final. It was Cor Jesu Academy's second straight state title after moving up from Class 3 prior to this season. Ranked as the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2027 by PrepSoccer.com and TopDrawerSoccer.com, DiMaria is a member of the U.S. Soccer Under-16 Women's National Team. She concluded her sophomore year with 75 goals and 40 assists in her prep soccer career.

A member of the Cor Jesu Academy choir, she has volunteered on behalf of Christian Action Reaching everyone and the Special Needs Soccer Association. Also a member of her school's Green Team Club dedicated to raising environmental awareness, she has served as a Cor Jesu Academy Shadow Guide for prospective students. "What makes Maddie special is her ability to read defenses and adjust her play accordingly," said Marty Todt, head coach of Nerinx Hall High School. "Her first touch is awesome. It sets her up for her next touch or shot, and when she sets you up, she will lower her shoulder to get inside the defender. She simply has another gear that she can go to."

DiMaria has maintained an unweighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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