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**ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® VERMONT GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Sadie Stetson of St. Johnsbury Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Stetson is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Johnsbury 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 court, distinguishes Stetson as Vermont's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Stetson joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06, Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 sophomore guard had led the Hilltoppers to an 18-2 record and the top seed in the Division 1 state tournament at the time of her selection. Stetson averaged 13.3 points, 5.0 rebounds, 3.8 steals and 3.5 assists through 20 games. A First Team All-Metro selection, she was also named to the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Dream Dozen squad.

Stetson has served as a tutor in her school and has volunteered locally on behalf of Green Up Vermont and youth sports programs. "Stetson is an outstanding player and a special athlete," said Ute Otley, head coach at Champlain Valley Union High. "She does everything and anything that her team needs to be done, and she has another gear that other kids just don't have."

Stetson has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Stetson joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sadie Otley (2015-16, Champlain Valley Union High School), Laurel Jaunich (2014-15, Champlain Valley Union High School), Emily Kinneston (2013-14 & 2012-13, Champlain Valley Union High School), Sarah Illingworth (2011-12, Hartford High School), Kylie Atwood (2010-11, Lake Region Union High School), Allison Gannon (2009-10, Champlain Valley Union High School), Tiffany Johnson (2008-09, Bellows Free Academy), Alyssa Herrington (2007-08, Mt. Anthony Union High School), and Kelli Hier (2006-07, Rice Memorial High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Sadie 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).