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**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Emily Kinneston of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Kinneston is the second Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 court, distinguishes Kinneston 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, Kinneston joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 5-foot-8 senior guard led the Redhawks to a 24-0 record and their second straight Division 1 championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Kinneston averaged 11.8 points, 4.9 rebounds, 3.2 steals and 2.9 assists per game. Named Miss Basketball by the Burlington Free Press in 2013, she is a three-time First Team All-Metro selection and a member of the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Dream Dozen.

Kinneston has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. Also a soccer standout, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, youth sports programs and the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities.

"Kinneston's got a very, very smooth game," said Sheila Burleigh, head coach at South Burlington High. "You can always count on her to make the big play when the game is on the line. What makes her special is her mental toughness. She has an ability to block everything out and she never gets flustered."

Kinneston has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at American 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Two time winner Kinneston joins Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sarah Illingworth (2011-12, Hartford High School), Kylie Atwood (2010-11, Lake Region Union High School), Allison Gannon (2009-10, Champlain Valley Union), Tiffany Johnson (2008-09, Bellows Free Academy), Alyssa Herrington (2007-08, Mt. Anthony Union), and Kelli Hier (2006-07, Rice Memorial) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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