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**BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 12, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sarah Middleton of Barrington High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Middleton is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barrington 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 Middleton as Rhode Island'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, Middleton 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-2 senior point guard averaged 16.9 points, 5.5 rebounds, 3.8 steals and 3.4 assists per game this past season, leading the Eagles (24-2) to the Open State Tournament quarterfinals. Middleton collected 15 points, nine rebounds, six assists and six steals in Barrington's 48-37 win over Bay View Academy in the Division I State Tournament championship game, earning Tournament MVP honors for a second straight year.

Middleton has maintained a B average in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. She has volunteered locally as a middle school math tutor, at Providence-area food banks and has donated her time as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with the Barrington High Interact Club.

"Sarah Middleton is the best player in Rhode Island for what she brings to her team on and off the court," said Amanda Varone, head coach of South Kingstown High. "She is Barrington's floor leader, can score almost at will and is one of the best ball handlers I've encountered."

Middleton remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Middleton joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Players of the Year Taylor Buckley (2013-14 & 2012-13, North Kingstown High School), Kailey Fugere (2011-12, Woonsocket High School), Kelly Mannix (2010-11, Barrington High School), Allie Jones (2009-10, South Kingstown), Torey Jones (2008-09, La Salle Academy), Brittany Wilson (2007-08, St. Mary Academy-Bay View), and Meredith Ward (2006-07, Westerly) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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