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

CHICAGO (March 12, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Laurel Jaunich of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jaunich is the third 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 Jaunich 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, Jaunich 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 6-foot-1 junior forward led the Redhawks to a 24-0 record and their third consecutive Division 1 state title this past season. Jaunich averaged 15.5 points, 6.8 rebounds and 2.0 steals per game. A First Team All-Metro selection and a Second Team Burlington Free Press All-State honoree, she has helped Champlain Valley Union to 71 consecutive victories over the past three seasons.

Jaunich has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, youth basketball camps and her school's Environmental Action Club.

"Jaunich runs the floor very well, she's a great finisher and she's just a tremendous defensive player," said Bert Berthiaume, head coach at Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans. "She's a very tough player to match up with."

Jaunich 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 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.

Jaunich joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Players of the Year 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), 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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