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**MOUNT ANTHONY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® VERMONT SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 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 Baylee Ports of Mount Anthony Union High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Vermont Softball Player of the Year. Ports is the first Gatorade Vermont Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Anthony 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 field, distinguishes Ports as Vermont's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Ports joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-2 senior right-hander had led the Patriots to a 15-1 record and the second seed in the Division 1 state tournament at the time of her selection. Ports owned a 14-1 record and a 0.64 ERA in the circle entering the postseason. A two-time First Team All-Marble Valley selection, she struck out 166 batters in 88 innings pitched, surrendering just 38 hits and 11 walks. Ports also threw eight shutouts and two no-hitters, while contributing 19 RBI at the plate.

Ports has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Red Cross, an animal shelter and Bennington Project Independence, which assists disabled and elderly adults in the community.

"Baylee Ports is a great pitcher," said Julie Fifield, head coach at Burr and Burton Academy. "Smart, with great control. She knows how to throw a variety of pitches and knows when to use them."

Ports will begin a year of post-graduate studies in the fall at Miss Hall's School, a prep school in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

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.

Ports joins recent Gatorade Vermont Softball Players of the Year Kayla Mathieu (2013-14, Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax), Kayla Wood (2012-13, Brattleboro Union High School), Alexis Perry (2011-12 & 2009-10, Essex High School), Chelsea Abbott (2010-11, Bellows Free Academy), Stephanie Frank (2008-09 & 2007-08, Essex), and Amanda Downey (2006-07, Essex) 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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