

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**NEW HAMPTON SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 10, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Becca Ripley of New Hampton School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Ripley is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from New Hampton 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 Ripley as New Hampshire'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, Ripley 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 junior guard and forward averaged 15.2 points, 10.5 rebounds, 2.0 assists, 1.9 steals and 1.3 blocks per game this season, leading the Huskies (21-7) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A Tournament semifinals. Because of injuries to her teammates, Ripley played all five positions this season for New Hampton. She is a two-time Lakes Region All-Star and a 2014 NEPSAC All-Star.

Ripley has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a school ambassador and as part of multiple community service projects through her school.

"Becca Ripley is the most versatile player that I have ever coached against," said Billy O'Dwyer, head coach of Thayer (Mass.) Academy. "She can shoot from all over the court and is strong enough to play in the post. She is too big and strong for most guards and too agile for most post players."

Ripley has made a verbal commitment to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Miami (Fla.) in the fall of 2017.

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.

Ripley joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Basketball Players of the Year Maddy Springfield (2014-15, Conant High School), Aliza Simpson (2013-14, Londonderry High School), Jamie Sherburne (2012-13, Bishop Guertin High School), Kirsten O'Neil (2011-12, Winnacunnet High School), Danielle Walczak (2010-11, Oyster River High School), Tiffany Ruffin (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Winnacunnet High School), and Stefanie Murphy (2006-07, Londonderry High School) 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.

###