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**SILVER LAKE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 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 Maddy Barone of Silver Lake Regional High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year. Barone is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Silver Lake Regional 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 Barone as Massachusetts's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Barone 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-9 senior right-handed pitcher led the Lakers to a 22-0 record entering the South Division 1 sectional tournament. The returning All-Scholastic Division 1 Player of the Year as named by The Boston Globe and Boston Herald, Barone posted a 20-0 record with a 0.76 ERA and 190 strikeouts against just 14 walks in 128 innings pitched entering the postseason. Also a four-time Patriot League All-Star, Barone batted .467 with 13 extra-base hits, 29 RBI and 38 runs scored, recording a .481 on-base percentage and a .747 slugging percentage through 22 games. She led Silver Lake to the 2015 Division 1 championship game as a junior.

Also a basketball, soccer and gymnastics standout, Barone has maintained a 4.26 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth softball instructor and umpire, she has volunteered with the Holidays in Halifax Committee and as part of multiple initiatives to support our armed forces, including her school's Deployment Buddies program and the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Scholarship Foundation.

"Maddy is a generational player, in that I have coached varsity for 14 years and this type of individual comes along very rarely," said Rod Laniewski, head coach at rival Duxbury High. "Yes, Maddy has been a dominant pitcher her entire career but it doesn't end there. She bats third for the No. 1-ranked team in Eastern Mass. If she wasn't pitching, there is not a position she could not play."

Barone has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Southern New Hampshire 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.

Barone joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Players of the Year Erin Gallo (2014-15, St. Peter-Marian High School), Megan Collieran (2013-14, North Attleborough High School), Shannon Smith (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2009-10, Milford High School), Emma Mendoker, (2010-11, Amherst Regional High School), Nicole D'Argento (2008-09 & 2007-08, Ashland High School), and Kara Nilan, (2006-07, Taconic 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.

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