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**LE SUEUR-HENDERSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Carlie Brandt of Le Sueur-Henderson High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Minnesota Softball Player of the Year. Brandt is the first Gatorade Minnesota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Le Sueur-Henderson 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 Brandt as Minnesota's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Brandt 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-7 senior right-handed pitcher led the Giants to a 20-3 record and a berth in the Class AA sectional finals, scheduled for June 2. A returning Class AA First Team All-State selection as named by the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches Association, Brandt owned a 20-1 record at the time of her selection with a 0.47 ERA and 278 strikeouts, issuing just 14 walks in 134 innings pitched. Also a shortstop, Brandt batted .493 with five home runs, 14 runs scored and 18 RBI through 23 games. She led Le Sueur-Henderson to the program's first-ever state tournament appearances in 2014 and 2015, capturing Class AA All-Tournament Team honors as a sophomore and junior.

Also a basketball and tennis standout, Brandt has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom and served on her school's student council. In addition to donating her time as a youth softball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the National Honor Society and her school's Target Group service organization.

"Carlie might be the best high school female athlete that I've ever coached against," said Phil Murry, head coach at rival Tri-City United. "She has a level of competitiveness that others just don't have. I've gotten to know her very well over the years, as I coach against her in both softball and tennis. Her skill level is superb, and she's always the hardest working player. She's what you hope all your athletes will become, as far as character. I use her as an example of what we want to be in our program all the time."

Brandt has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Brandt joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Softball Players of the Year Sydney Smith (2014-15 & 2013-14, Maple Grove Senior High School), Hannah Heacox (2012-13, Stillwater Area High School), Nikki Anderson (2011-12, Brainerd High School), Kelsey Anderson,(2010-11, Burnsville High School), Sara Moulton, (2009-10 & 2008-09, Eagan High School), Chelsey Durland (2007-08, Orono High School), and Brynne Dordel, (2006-07, Chaska 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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