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**AVON GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Maggie Balint of Avon Grove High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year. Balint is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Avon Grove 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 Balint as Pennsylvania's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Balint 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-10 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Red Devils to a 20-2 record and a berth in the district semifinals at the time of her selection. The state's Gatorade Softball Player of the Year as a sophomore and junior, Balint owned a 20-2 record and a 0.51 ERA in the circle through 22 games, along with a .473 batting average, six home runs and 16 RBI. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, she struck out 298 batters in 150.2 innings pitched, issuing just 31 walks and surrendering only 44 hits. A two-time Philadelphia Inquirer Southeast Pennsylvania Player of the Year, she is ranked as the nation's No. 4 recruit in the Class of 2016 by FloSoftball.com.

Balint has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of her church's religious education program and youth softball teams.

"Balint just completely dominated this year," said Pat Rafferty, head coach at Sun Valley High. "She not only throws harder than anyone I've seen at this level, but she could put the ball in a pinhole if she wanted to. She has complete and total command of her pitches and is a pleasure to watch."

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

Three-time winner Balint joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Alexis Bower (2012-13, Williamsport High School), Christy Von Pusch (2011-12, Radnor High School), Lauren Walker (2010-11 & 2009-10, Central York High School), Nicole Smith (2008-09, Milton Area High School), Alexa Bryson (2007-08, Greater Latrobe High School), and Trish Melvin (2006-07, Vincentian Academy) 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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