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## **HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 30, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jordy Allard of Hartford High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year. Allard is the first Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hartford 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 Allard as Vermont's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Allard joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 5-foot-9, 170-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Hurricanes to a 9-3 record at the time of his selection. Allard posted a 6-0 record with a 0.28 ERA through 12 games and owned a .463 batting average with 15 RBI. He posted 59 strikeouts in 32.1 innings pitched, while scattering five hits and two walks. Allard is a two-time First Team All-Marble Valley League selection and has twice been named to the Vermont American Legion All-Tournament team.

Also a hockey and soccer standout, Allard has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth sports programs. "Jordy Allard is the complete package," said Jamie Richardson, head coach at Windsor High. "He's an outstanding pitcher and he's a very good shortstop with very good range. He's really worked on his hitting too and now he's an offensive force."

Allard has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Allard joins recent Gatorade Vermont Baseball Players of the Year Mark Connor (2015-16, Bellows Free Academy), Rayne Supple (2014-15 & 2013-14, Champlain Valley Union High School), Luke Salerno (2012-13, Essex High School), Cody Sharrow (2011-12, Mt. Mansfield Union High School), Nick Swim (2010-11, Bellows Free Academy), Adam Picard (2009-10, Essex High School), Ryan Carter (2008-09, Proctor High School), Greg Lutton (2007-08, Mt. Abraham Union High School), and Casey Harman (2006-07, South Burlington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jordy will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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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