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**LONDONDERRY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Andi Nelson of Londonderry High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year. Nelson is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Londonderry 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 Nelson as New Hampshire's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Nelson joins an elite alumni association of past state softball award-winners, including Catherine Osterman (2000-01, Cy Spring High School, Texas), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City High School, Kan.), Carley Hoover (2012-13 D.W. Daniel High School, S.C.), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School, Ohio), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13 Cabell Midland High School, W. Va.), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Lancers to an 18-1 record and a berth in the state tournament at the time of her selection. Nelson posted a 12-1 record with a 1.65 ERA and 130 strikeouts in 90.1 innings through 19 games. A First Team All-State nominee she threw five complete-game shutouts and compiled a 6-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

A member of her school's Athletic Leadership Council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the National Honor Society. "Andi Nelson has worked so hard on and off the field to be successful," said Londonderry head coach Wayne MacDougall. "She pitched for us last season even though she was unable to practice due to a back injury. She worked hard all offseason and has had a tremendous year for us.

Nelson has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Salve Regina University this fall, where she will play softball.

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.

Nelson joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Jaime Cleasby (2015-16, Windham High School), Kaycee Carbone (2014-15, Alvirne High School), Erika Millett (2013-14, White Mountains Regional High School), Katelyn Kennard (2012-13, Concord High School), Taylor Carbone (2011-12 & 2010-11, Alvirne High School), Kelsey Martel (2009-10, Concord High School), Paige Hansen (2008-09, Concord High School), and Amanda Barton (2007-08 & 2006-07, Franklin High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Andi 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.

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