

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**ICHABOD CRANE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Calista Phippen of Ichabod Crane High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year. Phippen is the first Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ichabod Crane 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 Phippen as New York's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Phippen 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-5 junior right-handed pitcher led the Riders (16-3) to the Section 2 Class B championship game this past season. Phippen posted a 13-2 record and a 0.62 ERA in the circle along with compiling a .483 batting average and 37 RBI. She struck out 250 batters and walked just 19 in 113.1 innings pitched. The Class B Player of the Year as a sophomore, Phippen was also a First Team All-State honoree and a MaxPreps Sophomore All-American.

Phippen has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal shelter and youth softball programs. "The proper word for Calista Phippen is dominant," said Matt Miller head coach at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High. "She's a very hard thrower, but she throws with a spin of the ball that simply defies good contact, and she has the capability to place it wherever she wants."

Phippen has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Phippen joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Sarah Cornell (2015-16, W.T. Clarke High School), Toni Polk (2014-15, Niagara Falls High School), Julia DiMartino (2013-14, Brockport High School), Sydney O'Hara (2012-13, Cicero-North Syracuse High School), Kristen Brown (2011-12, MacArthur High School), Marissa Diescher (2010-11, Livingston Manor High School), Tammy Wray (2009-10, Somers High School), Olivia Galati (2008-09, St. John the Baptist High School), Cassie Reilly-Boccia (2007-08, Yorktown High School), and Chelsea Plimpton (2006-07, Williamsville South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Calista 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.

###