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**HURRICANE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Katie Adams of Hurricane High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Adams is the first Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hurricane 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 Adams as West Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Adams 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-7 senior catcher and left-handed pitcher led the Redskins (36-1) to the Class AAA state championship this past season. Adams compiled a 12-0 record and a 1.91 ERA in the circle to go with a .571 batting average, 20 doubles, seven home runs and 62 RBI. A First Team All-State honoree, she was also the Kanawha Valley Player of the Year and earned state Player of the Year honors from the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

A member of her school's student council, Adams has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs, a community clean-up initiative and clothing drives. "Katie Adams is a lethal weapon," said Tommy Barrett, head coach at Lincoln County High School. "She's got great bat control, a lot of power and she doesn't strike out. She can also catch, pitch and play first base. Marshall is getting a great player with her."

Adams has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Marshall 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.

Adams joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Softball Players of the Year Alexee Haynes (2015-16, Sissonville High School), Ali Burdette (2014-15, Buffalo High School), Kenna DeLancey (2013-14, Ritchie County High School), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13, Cabell Midland High School), Kylie Howard (2011-12, John Marshall High School), Ashley Knight (2010-11, Ritchie County High School), Samantha Snodgrass (2009-10, St. Albans High School), Andi Williamson (2008-09, Chapmanville Regional High School), Kiarra Chappelle (2007-08, Huntington High School), and Margaret Osborne (2006-07, St. Albans High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Katie 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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