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**BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Georgia Lord of Burr and Burton Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Lord is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Burr and Burton Academy.

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 Lord as Vermont's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Lord joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-5 junior midfielder and defender scored five goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Bulldogs (17-1) to the Division 1 state championship. The Burlington Free Press Player of the Year, Lord is a two-time First Team All-State honoree and a three-time First Team All-Marble Valley League selection.

A student ambassador and a member of her school's athletic leadership team, Lord has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer and basketball programs. "Georgia Lord makes every player on the field look better," said Edwin de Bruijn, head coach of Brattleboro High School. "She's a gifted player, with wonderful touch, and she can play anywhere on the field."

Lord has maintained a 4.02 GPA 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.

Lord joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Players of the Year Abby McKearin (2015-16, Proctor High School), Madison Feeney (2014-15, Burlington High School), Katie Stames (2013-14 & 2012-13, Peoples Academy), Lauren Bernard (2011-12 & 2010-11, Colchester High School), Brittany Pfaff (2009-10, Rice Memorial High School), Natalie LeClair (2008-09 & 2007-08, Essex High School), and Emily Milbank (2006-07, Champlaine Valley Union High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Georgia 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 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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