

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

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

CHICAGO (June 4, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Abby Rochette of Concord High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year. Rochette is the fourth Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Concord 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 Rochette 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, Rochette 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 junior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Crimson Tide (15-3) to the Division I state tournament at the time of her selection. Rochette compiled a 12-1 record in the circle with a 0.92 earned run average through 18 games. In 83.1 innings, she fanned 151 batters while allowing just 37 hits and 31 walks. Rochette batted .403 (27-for-67) with 10 RBI, 23 runs scored and a .420 on-base percentage while stealing seven bases. She fired three no-hitters and pitched 10 complete games entering the postseason.

A National Honor Society member and co-president of Medical Explorers, a program designed to connect students with medical professionals, Rochette has volunteered locally at blood-donation drives as well as on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and Be a Santa to a Senior. She has also donated her time to the Special Olympics and Best Buddies programs.

Rochette has maintained a 91.76 average in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school in the 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.

Rochette joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Andi Nelson (2016-17, Londonderry High School), 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, Abby 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.