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**COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® VERMONT SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Riley Magoon of Colchester High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Vermont Softball Player of the Year. Magoon is the first Gatorade Vermont Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Colchester 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 Magoon as Vermont's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Magoon 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-9 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Lakers to a 13-3 record and the Division 1 state tournament at the time of her selection. Magoon compiled an 8-1 record with a 0.96 ERA in the circle, along with a .719 batting average, six home runs and 49 RBI through 16 games. She struck out 109 batters and issued only nine walks in 51 innings pitched. Magoon is a three-time First Team All-Metro League selection.

Magoon has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, Burlington City Arts, a food bank and youth softball programs.

Magoon has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. She will attend DePauw 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.

Magoon joins recent Gatorade Vermont Softball Players of the Year Payton Buxton (2016-17, Middlebury Union High School), Allison Rutz (2015-16, Essex High School), Baylee Ports (2014-15, Mount Anthony Union High School), Kayla Mathieu (2013-14, Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax), Kayla Wood (2012-13, Brattleboro Union High School), Alexis Perry (2011-12 & 2009-10, Essex High School), Chelsea Abbott (2010-11, Bellows Free Academy), Stephanie Frank (2008-09 & 2007-08, Essex), and Amanda Downey (2006-07, Essex) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Riley 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/>.