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CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Natalie Durieux of Champlain Valley Union High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Durieux is the third Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 Durieux 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, Durieux 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 (2004-05, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-7 senior midfielder scored nine goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Redhawks (17-0) to the Division 1 state championship. The Burlington Free Press Player of the Year, Durieux is a two-time First Team All-State honoree and an All-New England selection by United Soccer Coaches.

Also a talented musician, Durieux has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth soccer programs. "Durieux can do it all, and she really makes her team go," said Jeff Burroughs, head coach of St. Johnsbury Academy. "She's a difficult player to match up with, and she's also a class act who works very hard – the kind of player every coach wants on their team."

Durieux has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will attend the University of Vermont 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.

Durieux joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Soccer Players of the Year Georgia Lord (2016-17, Burr and Burton Academy), 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), Natalie LeClair (2008-09 & 2007-08, Essex High School), and Emily Milbank (2006-07, Champlain Valley Union) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Durieux 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.

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