

**ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Sadie Stetson of St. Johnsbury Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Stetson is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Johnsbury 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 Stetson as Vermont's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Stetson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Maya Moore (2005-06, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville High School, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo High School, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis High School, Ind.), Katie Smith (1991-92, Logan High School, Ohio) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 senior guard had led the Hilltoppers to a 20-2 record and the Division 1 semifinals at the time of her selection. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Stetson averaged 16.2 points, 4.6 rebounds, 3.3 steals and 3.1 assists through 22 games. She has twice been named Miss Basketball by the Burlington Free Press and is a two-time Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Year.

Stetson has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and youth sports programs. "Sadie Stetson's play is at a different level than anyone else's," said Shawn Montague, head coach at Essex High. "She can dominate games, but she still gets her teammates involved. She just lets her play do the talking."

Stetson has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at American 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Three-time winner Stetson joins Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sadie Otley (2015-16, Champlain Valley Union High School), Laurel Jaunich (2014-15, Champlain Valley Union High School), and Emily Kinneston (2013-14, Champlain Valley Union High School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Stetson also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.