NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 25, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Sabine Brueck** of **North Country Union High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Brueck is the second Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from North Country Union High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Brueck as Vermont's best high school girls track & field athlete. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Sanya Richards-Ross (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fla), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-7 junior hurdler/jumper swept the 100- and 300-meter hurdles at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Falcons to a ninth-place finish as a team. Brueck also took second in the triple jump and third in the long jump. She clocked a state-record time of 43.90 seconds at the New England Outdoor championships, where she finished third. The 2023-23 Vermont Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, she set another state record with 5,755 points at the Vermont Decathlon Championships.

Brueck has volunteered locally as a youth track, basketball and soccer coach. She has also donated her time as a summer camp counselor. "Sabine has excelled in a variety of events this year," said Bill Eschholz, head coach of Mount Mansfield Union High School. "From the sprints to the hurdles to the jumps, she is, without a doubt, the best all-around athlete in track this year."

Brueck has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Brueck joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Scarlet Stimson (2022-23, Essex High School), Loghan Hughes (2021-22, Bellows Free Academy), Jada Diamond (2020-21, Mount Mansfield Union High School) and Rebecca Crosier (2019-20, Mount Anthony Union High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.