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**LAKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® COLORADO GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 19, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Camilla Emsbo of Lakewood High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Emsbo is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakewood 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 Emsbo as Colorado's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Emsbo joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 6-foot-5 senior forward led the Tigers to a 23-4 record and a trip to the Class 5A state semifinals this past season. Emsbo averaged 18.1 points, 7.8 rebounds, 3.6 blocks, 1.7 steals and 1.7 assists per game. A 2016-17 All-Colorado selection by The Denver Post, Emsbo is rated as the nation's No. 34 recruit in the Class of 2018 by espnW.

A viola player, Emsbo has also volunteered locally with Key Club and on behalf of an adaptive swimming program that specializes in therapeutic treatment for children with disabilities. She has also donated her time as a Link Crew Leader, helping to ease the transition to high school for incoming freshmen. "Camilla is one of those kids who makes her team better, makes the players around her better," said Greg Bolding, head coach at Columbine High. "She does everything the right way, and with a great attitude. She's one of the greatest players I've coached against."

Emsbo has maintained a weighted 4.83 GPA in the classroom She will attend Yale University, where she will play basketball, beginning 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.

Emsbo joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Players of the Year Michaela Onyenwere (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Grandview High School), Justine Hall (2013-14, Regis Jesuit High School), Diani Akigbogun (2012-13, Regis Jesuit High School), Michaela Neuhaus (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jamie Katuna (2010-11, Longmont High School), Quincey Noonan (2009-10, Legacy High School), Anna Prins (2008-09, Broomfield High School), Alyssa Fressle (2007-08, Highlands Ranch High School), and Melissa Jones (2006-07, Legacy High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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