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**URSULINE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 19, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Kourtney Weber of Ursuline Academy as its 2017-18 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Weber is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ursuline 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 Weber as Louisiana'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, Weber 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 5-foot-10 senior guard and forward led the Lions to a 26-4 record and the Division II state championship this past season. Weber averaged 17.7 points, 9.2 rebounds, 5.2 assists, 3.0 steals and 2.8 blocks per game, including 30 points and 11 boards in Ursuline's 70-43, title game win. She was named the Most Outstanding Player of the state championship game. Rated as the nation's No. 35 recruit in the Class of 2018 by espnW, Weber was the Class 4A Player of the Year as a sophomore then missed all but three games of her junior year with a knee injury. She concluded her prep basketball career with 1,614 points.

A member of her church's youth choir, Weber has volunteered locally at an assisted living center and as a youth basketball coach. "Kourtney is a game-changer and a point-blank scorer," said Valencia Wilson, head coach of Lee Magnet High. "She can do it all: dribble, rebound and shoot. Kourtney was everything a coach could ask for this season, I'm sure."

Weber has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Florida State University 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.

Weber joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Cara Ursin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Destrehan High School), Kalani Brown (2013-14, Salmen High School), Kaitlyn Pratt (2012-13, McDonogh 35 College Preparatory High School), Kuaneshia Baker (2011-12, Helen Cox High School), Brandi Jeffery (2010-11, St. James High School), Theresa Plaisance (2009-10 & 2008-09, Vandebilt Catholic), Kristi Bellock (2007-08, John Curtis Christian School), and Adrienne Johnson (2006-07, Franklin High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kourtney 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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