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**BARBERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Charli Collier of Barbers Hill High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Collier is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barbers Hill 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 Collier as Texas' best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Collier 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 averaged 30.9 points, 11.5 rebounds, 2.3 steals, 2.2 blocks and 2.0 assists per game this past season, leading the Eagles (38-3) to the Class 5A, Region 3 tournament semifinals. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, Collier is a finalist for the Naismith Award and was a member of the USA Basketball Under-17 Women's National Team that won a bronze medal at the 2016 World Championships. Rated as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2018 by Prospects Nation, she concluded her prep basketball career with 3,539 points and 1,406 rebounds.

A member of her local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Collier has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and youth basketball coach. "Charli Collier is a difference-maker for her team," said LeighAnn Wolfe, head coach of Kingwood Park High. "She has continued to get better each year. Most times in high school, you do not think of a 6-foot-5 post player shooting the 3-pointer effectively, but she does. She uses her size well and doesn't just rely on her height."

Collier has maintained a weighted 3.34 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Texas 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.

Collier joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Alexis Morris (2016-17, Legacy Christian Academy), Lauren Cox (2015-16 & 2014-15, Flower Mound High School), Brianna Turner (2013-14, Manvel High School), Ariel Atkins (2012-13, Duncanville High School), Alexis Jones (2011-12 & 2010-11, MacArthur High School), Chiney Ogwumike (2009-10, Cy-Fair High School), Brittney Griner (2008-09, Nimitz High School), and Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08 & 2006-07, Cy-Fair High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Charli 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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