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**CAPITAL PREP. HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kiah Gillespie of Capital Prep. as its 2013-14 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Gillespie is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital Prep..

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Gillespie as Connecticut'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, Gillespie joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 6-foot-2 junior forward and guard led the Trailblazers to a 24-0 record and a berth in the Class L quarterfinals against Bristol Eastern, scheduled for March 14. Entering the round of eight, Gillespie is averaging 22.4 points, 10.3 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 1.8 blocks per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she is rated as the nation's No. 42 recruit in the Class of 2015 by ESPN.

Gillespie has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally feeding and clothing the homeless, raising funds for cancer research and reading to elementary school students as part of a literacy-outreach initiative.

"Gillespie is a big, powerful guard who can play anywhere on the court," said Catrina Hawley, head coach at Hillhouse High. "She plays with integrity and she plays hard, every single game. She's a great example for all the young kids."

Gillespie will begin her senior year of high school 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Gillespie joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sarah Veilleux (2012-13, RHAM High School), Kristin Schatzlein (2011-12, Tolland High School), Katie Mahoney (2010-11, Bacon Academy), Kastine Evans (2009-10, Norwich Free Academy), Symone Roberts (2008-09, New Britain), and Heather Buck (2007-08 & 2006-07, Stonington) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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