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**DESERT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® UTAH GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Haley Bodnar of Desert Hills High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Bodnar is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Desert Hills 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 court, distinguishes Bodnar as Utah'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, Bodnar 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-4 senior center led the Thunder to a 25-1 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Bodnar averaged 14.2 points, 6.1 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was named Class 3A MVP by the Deseret News as a junior.

Bodnar has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has served as a tutor for special needs students and has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility and youth basketball camps.

"Bodnar is the key to their defense, a very intimidating presence," said Shelly Kidd-Thomas, head coach at Hurricane High. "She's very big and her wing span is probably 6-7 or 6-8. She's also very good on the inside and a good rebounder."

Bodnar has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Purdue University 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.

Bodnar joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Players of the Year Malia Nawahine (2012-13, Springville High School), Brittney Martin (2011-12, Syracuse High School), Lexi Eaton (2010-11 & 2009-10, Springville High School), Haley Holmstead (2008-09, American Fork), Dani Peterson (2007-08, Skyline), and Tasha Dickey (2006-07, Brighton) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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