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**DESERT VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 12, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kristine Anigwe of Desert Vista High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Anigwe is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Desert Vista 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 Anigwe as Arizona'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, Anigwe 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 29-4 record and the semifinals of the Division 1 state tournament this past season. Anigwe averaged 21.1 points, 11.3 rebounds, 2.7 blocks and 1.9 steals per game. A member of the USA Basketball Women's U17 National Team, she was chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game and was selected to USA TODAY's All-USA Arizona First Team.

Anigwe has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children.

"Anigwe is a game-changer," said Jermaine Whitaker, head coach at Marcos de Niza High. "She's tough in the key and she can take her game outside and hit the 15- to 18-foot jump shot. On defense, she makes it difficult to drive to the basket and she's great at getting rebounds."

Anigwe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of California-Berkeley 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.

Anigwe joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Players of the Year Julia Barcello (2013-14, Seton Catholic Preparatory High School), Courtney Ekmark (2012-13, Saint Mary's Catholic High School), Shilpa Tummala (2011-12, St. Mary's Catholic High School), Promise Amukamara (2010-11, Apollo High School), Rebecca Woodberry (2009-10, Tolleson), Davellyn Whyte (2008-09, St. Mary's Catholic), Amy Patton (2007-08, McClintock), and Kayla Pedersen (2006-07, Red Mountain) 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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