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**WILLIAM FREMD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Haley Gorecki of William Fremd High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Gorecki is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from William Fremd 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 Gorecki as Illinois'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, Gorecki 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 senior point guard averaged 23.4 points, 7.2 rebounds, 3.7 steals and 3.2 assists per game this past season, leading the Vikings (29-5) to the Class 4A state championship game. Also the Player of the Year as named by the Chicago Sun-Times, Gorecki shot 46.8 percent from the field and 78.3 percent from the free-throw line this winter. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune and Illinois Basketball Coaches Association, she averaged 22.6 points, 5.8 rebounds, 3.5 steals and 3.1 assists per contest as a junior in 2013-14.

Gorecki has maintained a 3.03 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, as part of toy drives to benefit needy children and as a neighborhood animal caretaker. She has also donated her time to Feed My Starving Children.

"Haley is the perfect choice for Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year," said Mark Johnson, head coach of rival Palatine High. "She goes about her business like a professional. She is hardworking and a fantastic passer and ball-handler in addition to her 22 points per game. She is the best player that I have had to prepare a team to compete against in 20-plus years of coaching. There are no weaknesses in her game, and she has raised the level of her teammates' games with her unselfish play."

Gorecki has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Gorecki joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Players of the Year Tyra Buss (2013-14, Mt. Carmel High School), Jackie Kempf (2012-13, Rolling Meadows High School), Morgan Tuck (2011-12, Bolingbrook High School), Ariel Massengale (2010-11, Bolingbrook High School), Tricia Liston (2009-10 & 2008-09, Fenwick), Sarah Boothe (2007-08, Warren Township), and Brittany Johnson (2006-07, East Richland) 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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