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**MAIZE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Keiryn Swenson of Maize High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Swenson is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Maize 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 Swenson as Kansas'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, Swenson 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 senior forward has led the Eagles to a 22-0 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 11. A two-time returning Class 6A First Team All-State selection as named by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association, Swenson averaged 14.3 points, 8.6 rebounds, 2.3 steals, 2.0 blocks and 1.9 assists through 22 games. Also the state's 2013-14 Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Swenson shot 51.2 percent from the field and 81.3 percent from the free-throw line this winter entering the round of eight. As a junior, she led Maize to the 2014 Class 6A state title game.

Swenson has maintained a 4.05 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor, she has volunteered on behalf of her church, multiple holiday gift-giving campaigns to benefit the needy and the Side-Out Foundation's Dig Pink efforts to raise breast cancer awareness. Swenson has also served as a member of the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Students Against Drunk Driving and the Kansas Association for Youth.

"She plays the game so fluidly, has the ability to score inside and outside, and always plays the game with exemplary character," said Ryan Stuart, head coach of rival Salina South High. "I have coached girls' basketball in Kansas at the Class 5A level for nine years now, and Swenson is one of the most complete players and student-athletes I have seen."

Swenson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Swenson joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kaylee Page (2013-14, Wamego High School), Katelyn Loecker (2012-13 & 2011-12, McPherson High School), Natalie Knight (2010-11, Olathe South High School), Tiffany Bias (2009-10, Andover Central), Taber Spani (2008-09, Metro Academy), Kendra Frazier (2007-08, Labette County), and Morgan Boyd (2006-07, Olathe East) 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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