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**ANNAPOLIS AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Taylor Murray of Annapolis Area Christian School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Murray is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Annapolis Area Christian 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 Murray as Maryland'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, Murray 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 5-foot-6 senior point guard led the Eagles to a 27-3 record and both the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland Class B and Maryland Christian School Division I state titles this past season. Murray averaged 29.6 points, 8.8 rebounds, 7.0 steals and 4.1 assists per game, including 31 points and 13 rebounds in the IAAM B title game. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, she won a gold medal as a member of Team USA at the 2013 FIBA Americas U16 Championships for Women.

Murray has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. A talented saxophone player, she has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church.

"I have been in girls basketball as a high school and AAU coach for 25 years and have never seen anyone take over a game like Taylor can," said Chuck Miller, head coach of Severn School. "She has some of the quickest hands and athletic instincts that I've seen."

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

Murray joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Players of the Year De'Janae Boykin (2013-14, C.H. Flowers High School), Amanda Fioravanti (2012-13, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Jonquel Jones (2011-12, Riverdale Baptist School), Taylor Brown (2010-11, Bishop McNamara High School), Kelsey Wolfe (2009-10, Seneca Valley), Tianna Hawkins (2008-09, Riverdale Baptist School), Tarik Hislop (2007-08, Paint Branch), and Marah Strickland (2006-07, Towson Catholic) 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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