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EASTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Madison Guebert of Eastview High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Guebert is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eastview 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 Guebert as Minnesota'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, Guebert 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-8 senior point guard has led the Lightning to a 26-1 record and a berth in the Class AAAA sectional finals, scheduled for March 12. A two-time returning Class AAAA First Team All-State selection as named by the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association, Guebert averaged 20.6 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.7 assists through 27 games. Guebert shot 50.1 percent from the field, 45.5 percent from 3-point range and 91.3 percent from the free-throw line entering the round of 16. Also a Minnesota Miss Basketball candidate, she led Eastview to the 2014 Class AAAA state championship as a junior.

Guebert has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time to a youth literacy-outreach program at an area elementary school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and by making tie blankets for a women's shelter and hospice.

"She has always played the game with such class," said Larissa Parr, head coach of rival Burnsville High. "She is a coach's dream. She works extremely hard and let's her skill and ability speak for itself. In the four years I have coached against her, she has always respected her opponent and the officials, showed poise and confidence as a player, and has been a positive leader and example for her teammates."

Guebert has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at South Dakota State 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.

Guebert joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Chase Coley (2013-14, Washburn High School), Rebekah Dahlman (2012-13 & 2011-12, Braham Area High School), Rachel Banham (2010-11, Lakeville North High School), Sari Noga (2009-10, Parkers Prairie), Tayler Hill (2008-09 & 2007-08, Minneapolis South), and Janessa Wolff (2006-07, Park Rapids Area) 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.