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LONG ISLAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Lauren Brozoski of Long Island Lutheran High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Brozoski is the first Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Long Island Lutheran 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 Brozoski as New York'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, Brozoski joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball awardwinners, 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-5 senior guard has led the Crusaders to a 19-4 record and a berth in the New York Federation Championships, scheduled for March 27. Entering the postseason, Brozoski is averaging 18.2 points, 7.4 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 2.8 steals per game. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she was the Class AA Player of the Year as a junior and the Class A Player of the Year as a sophomore. Brozoski is also a two-time MVP of the Federation Tournament and was twice named Long Island Player of the Year.

Brozoski has maintained an A average in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, her school yearbook and the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring organization.

"She plays hard the whole game, she can shoot the ball and she's a very team-oriented player," said Chez Williams, head coach at Bishop Loughlin High. "Just a great personality and a great teammate."

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

Brozoski joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sierra Calhoun (2013-14, Christ the King High School), Saniya Chong (2012-13, Ossining High School), Breanna Stewart (2011-12 & 2010-11, Cicero-North Syracuse High School), Bria Hartley (2009-10 & 2008-09, North Babylon), Samantha Prahalis (2007-08, Commack), and Lorin Dixon (2006-07, Christ the King) 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.