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**BISHOP RYAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 12, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Hannah Stewart of Bishop Ryan Catholic High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Stewart is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Ryan Catholic 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 Stewart as North Dakota'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, Stewart 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 guard and forward has led the Lions to a 23-1 record and their third straight Class B state title this past season. Stewart averaged 19.6 points and 11.6 rebounds while shooting 60.9 percent from inside the arc. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she also posted regular-season averages of 6.1 steals, 4.8 blocks and 4.7 assists per game.

Stewart has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has served as the president of the National Honor Society and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.).

"Hannah Stewart has matured into an amazing player," said Joe Bender, head coach at Bottineau High. "She has everything you would like to see in an all-around player. She is one of the few players in my 25 years of coaching that I can honestly say has no weaknesses. She has everything needed to play collegiately at the Division I level."

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

Stewart joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sarah Jacobson (2013-14, Shanley High School), Hannah Larson (2012-13, Century High School), Holly Johnson (2011-12, Minot High School), Caitlin Farroh (2010-11, Grand Forks Central High School), Meghan Roehrich (2009-10, Fargo South), Kelsey Sigl (2008-09, Bismarck), Alex Feeney (2007-08, Bismarck), and Jessica Kielpinski (2006-07, Mandan) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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