

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**CHAGRIN FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Hallie Thome of Chagrin Falls High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Thome is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Chagrin Falls 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 Thome as Ohio'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, Thome 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-5 senior center and forward had led the Tigers to a 26-0 record and a berth in the Division II regional tournament at the time of her selection. Thome averaged 20.3 points and 9.3 rebounds per game while shooting 71 percent from inside the arc through 26 games. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she averaged 19 points per contest in a pair of Division II district semifinal games.

Thome has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of her school's student leadership program and her community's parks and recreation department.

"Thome is a great kid and a heck of a player," said Erika Greenberg, head coach at Aurora High. "We did everything we could to stop her and she still dropped 25-plus points on us both times we played them. She is not only a tall girl but she really has skill. She can score going both directions and she has good feet. I can't wait to see what she can do at the college level."

Thome 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.

Thome joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kelsey Mitchell (2013-14, Princeton High School), Bianca Quisenberry (2012-13, Tecumseh High School), Malina Howard (2011-12, Twinsburg High School), Ally Malott (2010-11, Madison High School), Amy Scullion (2009-10, Salem), Mikaela Ruef (2008-09, Beaver Creek), Shay Selby (2007-08, Regina), and Jantel Lavender (2006-07, Cleveland Central 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.

###