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**BLACKMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Crystal Dangerfield of Blackman High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Dangerfield is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blackman 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 Dangerfield as Tennessee'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, Dangerfield 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-5 junior point guard led the Blaze to a 32-2 record and a second consecutive Class AAA state championship this past season. In the 58-54, title-clinching victory against Oakland in double overtime, Dangerfield scored a team-high 18 points, capturing tournament MVP honors for the second straight year. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, she averaged 15.5 points, 5.7 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 2.6 steals per game. Also Tennessee's Class AAA Miss Basketball selection, Dangerfield shot 46.0 percent from the field, 30.4 percent from 3-point range and 79.3 percent from the free-throw line. The starting point guard for the 2013 USA Basketball Women's U16 National Team, she has led her Amateur Athletic Union squads to five national age-group championships.

Dangerfield has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and her school's DECA club, she has volunteered as part of a literacy-outreach program, on behalf of her church and as a youth basketball instructor. She has also donated her time to fundraising efforts benefiting Alzheimer's research and promoting healthy living at nearby elementary schools.

"She exemplifies a complete player on and off the court," said Kim Francis, head coach of rival LaVergne High. "She holds herself to a higher standard and meets the demands of being the very best student-athlete. She's an awesome athlete and even a better person."

Dangerfield has verbally committed to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Two-time winner Dangerfield joins Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Players of the Year Nina Davis (2012-13, Central High School), Bashaara Graves (2011-12, Clarksville High School), Shacobia Barbee (2010-11, Riverdale High School), Taylor Hall (2009-10, Morristown-Hamblen West), Faith Dupree (2008-09, Webb School of Knoxville), and Glory Johnson (2007-08 & 2006-07, Webb School of Knoxville) 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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