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**FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Lauren Cox of Flower Mound High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Cox is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Flower Mound 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 Cox as Texas'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, Cox 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-4 junior power forward and center averaged 21.7 points, 15.3 rebounds and 5.4 blocks per game this past season, leading the Jaguars (28-8) to the Class 6A state semifinals. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, Cox shot 46.7 percent from the field and added 1.7 assists and 1.1 steals per contest this winter. As a starting forward during the USA Basketball Women's U17 National Team's unbeaten run to the gold medal at the 2014 FIBA U17 World Championship this past summer, she averaged 7.1 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.7 blocks over seven games.

Also a volleyball standout, Cox has maintained a 4.39 weighted GPA in the classroom. A volunteer school-day greeter at local elementary schools in association with Partners in Education, Cox has donated her time to the Special Olympics in addition to coaching a youth select volleyball squad. She has also participated in community service projects on behalf of Christian Community Action, Breast Cancer Awareness and the Horizons holiday project for children in need.

"She was a complete game-changer whenever we played Flower Mound," said Cherilyn Morris, head coach of rival Plano East High. "She brings things to the game that were impossible for our team to do anything about. She has a great talent, physical gift and fierce competitive spirit."

Cox will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Cox joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Brianna Turner (2013-14, Manvel High School), Ariel Atkins (2012-13, Duncanville), Alexis Jones (2011-12 & 2010-11, MacArthur), Chiney Ogwumike (2009-10, Cy-Fair), Brittney Griner (2008-09, Nimitz), and Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08 & 2006-07, Cy-Fair) 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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