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**LYNNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Mikayla Pivec of Lynnwood High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Pivec is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lynnwood 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 Pivec as Washington'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, Pivec 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-10 junior wing led the Royals to a 25-2 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. In the 54-42, title-clinching victory against Cleveland, Pivec amassed 31 points, 17 rebounds, three steals and two assists to capture Most Valuable Player honors. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by The News Tribune, she averaged 20.4 points, 12.0 rebounds, 3.4 steals and 3.3 assists per game this winter. Pivec shot 51.1 percent from the field, 42.9 percent from 3-point range and 73.7 percent from the free-throw line. She has already eclipsed 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in her prep career.

Also a cross country and track standout, Pivec has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered extensively on behalf of Catholic Community Services assisting families in need. She has also donated her time to EarthCorps by maintaining local public parks and facilities for the charitable organizations.

"She plays harder for all 32 minutes than any kid I've ever coached against," said Dori Monson, head coach of rival Shorecrest High. "She has a beautiful shooting touch and is a tenacious rebounder—and it's also clear that she's a natural leader. That leadership reflects her character."

Pivec 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.

Pivec joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Brittany McPhee (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Mt. Rainier High School), Erika Johnson (2010-11, Holy Names Academy), Mercedes Wetmore (2009-10, Auburn Riverside), Lindsey Moore (2008-09, Kentwood), Ashley Corral (2007-08, Prairie), and Angie Bjorklund (2006-07, University) 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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