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**CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARKANSAS GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 10, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Christyn Williams of Central Arkansas Christian High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Williams is the second Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Arkansas Christian 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 Williams as Arkansas'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, Williams 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 sophomore guard has led the Mustangs to a 24-13 record and a berth in the Class 4A state championship game against Riverview, scheduled for March 11. Williams is averaging 29.2 points, 9.9 rebounds and 2.6 steals per game. An alternate for the USA Basketball Women's U16 National Team, she is a two-time All-State honoree and is ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2018 by ESPN.

Williams has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. She has raised money to benefit the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Arkansas Dream Center helping people in need in addition to donating her time to youth basketball camps.

"There's not much Christyn Williams can't do with a basketball," said Nathan Morris, head coach at Lonoke High. "She has a tremendous jump shot, she's very smooth going to the basket and she can use either hand. She's very athletic and a very talented scorer."

Williams will begin her junior 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Danberry (2014-15, & 2013-14 Conway High School), Tyler Scaife (2012-13 & 2011-12, Hall High School), Calli Berna (2010-11, Fayetteville High School), Morgan Hook (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rogers High School), Shekinna Stricklen (2007-08, Morrilton High School), and Whitney Zachariason (2006-07, Central Arkansas Christian High School) 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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