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**MIRAMONTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Sabrina Ionescu of Miramonte High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Ionescu is the first Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Miramonte 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 Ionescu as California'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, Ionescu 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 senior guard has led the Matadors to a 29-0 record, the CIF North Coast Section Division 3 title and a berth in the Open Division state tournament against Brookside Christian, scheduled for March 11. Ionescu is averaging 26.5 points, 9.0 assists, 7.5 rebounds and 5.5 steals per game. A former member of the USA Basketball Women's U16 and U17 Women's National Teams, she was named the California Sophomore and Junior of the Year by Cal-Hi Sports and has been selected to play in the McDonald's All-American Game.

Ionescu has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.

"I've never seen her have a bad game," said Kevin Kiernan, head coach at Mater Dei High. "She's very versatile—she can shoot, she can pass and she's a great leader. The best players make other people better and that's exactly what she does."

Ionescu is undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Ionescu joins recent Gatorade California Girls Basketball Players of the Year Katie Lou Samuelson (2014-15 & 2013-14, Mater Dei High School), Erica McCall (2012-13, Ridgeview High School), Nirra Fields (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis (2010-11 & 2008-09, Mater Dei High School), Chelsea Gray (2009-10, St. Mary's High School), Jasmine Dixon (2007-08, Long Beach Poly High School), and Jeanette Pohlen (2006-07, Brea Olinda 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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