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**GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 10, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Michaela Onyenwere of Grandview High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Onyenwere is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grandview 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 Onyenwere as Colorado'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, Onyenwere 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 junior forward has led the Wolves to a 26-0 record and a berth in the Class 5A semifinals, scheduled for March 10. Onyenwere averaged 24.4 points and 10.3 rebounds per game while shooting at 62 percent from inside the arc entering the final four. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, she is ranked the nation's No. 28 recruit in the Class of 2017 by ESPN HoopGurlz.

Onyenwere has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach.

"Michaela Onyenwere is an exceptional athlete that possesses great energy," said Grandview High head coach Josh Ulitzky. "She is a player that gives her best effort every time she is on the floor. She is a great teammate who does whatever is required to help her team win. Her leadership has been more evident as she has become more vocal and continues to lead by example in practice and in games."

Onyenwere will begin her senior year 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.

Two-time winner Onyenwere joins Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Players of the Year Justine Hall (2013-14, Regis Jesuit High School), Diani Akigbogun (2012-13, Regis Jesuit High School), Michaela Neuhaus (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jamie Katuna (2010-11, Longmont High School), Quincey Noonan (2009-10, Legacy High School), Anna Prins (2008-09, Broomfield High School), Alyssa Fressle (2007-08, Highlands Ranch High School), and Melissa Jones (2006-07, Legacy 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.

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