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**WICHITA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Kendrian Elliott of Wichita South High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Elliott is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wichita South 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 Elliott as Kansas'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, Elliott 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-3 senior forward and center led the Titans to a 22-0 record entering the Class 6A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 10. A two-returning First Team All-State selection as named by Sports in Kansas, Elliott averaged 15.0 points through 22 games on 57.8 percent shooting from the field and 79.8 percent shooting from the free-throw line. She added 10.7 rebounds, 2.6 blocks and 2.6 assists in just 21.1 minutes per game entering the state's round of eight. The teen led Wichita South to Class 6A state championships in each of her first three prep seasons.

Elliott has maintained a 3.00 GPA in the classroom. In addition to feeding the homeless at The Lord's Diner in Wichita, she has volunteered locally at a nursing home and as part of a youth-literacy outreach program.

"Kendrian Elliott has been a phenomenal player all four years," said LaToya Randle, head coach at rival Southeast High. "She has truly become more than a conqueror and has exemplified what it truly means to be a true champion. Each year she has worked hard in the off-season and has improved her game. However, what I respect most about her is she wins with honor, integrity and class."

Elliott has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Tulsa 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.

Elliott joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Keiryn Swenson (2014-15, Maize High School), Kaylee Page (2013-14, Wamego High School), Katelyn Loecker (2012-13 & 2011-12, McPherson High School), Natalie Knight (2010-11, Olathe South High School), Tiffany Bias (2009-10, Andover Central High School), Taber Spani (2008-09, Metro Academy), Kendra Frazier (2007-08, Labette County High School), and Morgan Boyd (2006-07, Olathe East) 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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