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**NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Mykea Gray of National Christian Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Gray is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from National Christian Academy.

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 Gray as Maryland'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, Gray 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-6 junior point guard has led the Eagles to a 31-0 record as they await a possible at-large bid to the Dick's Sporting Goods High School National Tournament, scheduled to begin April 1. Gray has averaged 18.1 points, 4.2 assists, 2.9 rebounds and 2.6 steals through 31 games. Named the Most Outstanding Player at the 2016 Rose Classic Super Jam, she was also MVP of the Nike Under-15 National Championships in 2015 and is rated as the nation's No. 12 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Blue Star Basketball.

Gray, who attends SHABACH! Christian Academy Homeschool, has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a lunch monitor at National Christian, and she has donated her time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church.

"Mykea is very dangerous with the ball," said Keisha Hunt, head coach of Hamilton Heights (Tenn.) Christian Academy. "She has a big impact on her team's success. Without her, they would not even be close to the team they are with her."

Gray 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.

Gray joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Players of the Year Taylor Murray (2014-15, Annapolis Area Christian School), De'Janae Boykin (2013-14, C.H. Flowers High School), Amanda Fioravanti (2012-13, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Jonquel Jones (2011-12, Riverdale Baptist School), Taylor Brown (2010-11, Bishop McNamara High School), Kelsey Wolfe (2009-10, Seneca Valley High School), Tianna Hawkins (2008-09, Riverdale Baptist School), Tarik Hislop (2007-08, Paint Branch High School), and Marah Strickland (2006-07, Towson Catholic 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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