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**NOBLE & GREENOUGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Katie Benzan of Noble & Greenough School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Benzan is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Noble & Greenough 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 Benzan as Massachusetts'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, Benzan 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-5 senior point guard led the Bulldogs to a 24-4 record and a fifth straight New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A Tournament championship this past season. Benzan averaged 20.6 points, 7.1 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 3.5 steals and was named NEPSAC Class A Tournament MVP for a third time after tallying 21 points, eight assists and seven rebounds in the title game. A two-time Independent School League MVP, Benzan was a 2016 McDonald's All-American Game nominee and a 2015 Boston Globe All-Scholastic selection. She concluded her prep basketball career with 2,153 points.

Benzan has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A member of Sister to Sister, an affinity group for young women of color at Nobles, she has volunteered locally at her school with special-needs students and has participated in a service mission trip to New Orleans.

"Katie Benzan is one of the most competitive players I have ever coached against," said Freddy Petkus, head coach of New Hampton (N.H.) School. "Her toughness and attitude make up for her small size. She has been the most feared player in NEPSAC for four years."

Benzan has verbally committed to attend Harvard University, where she will play basketball 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.

Benzan joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Players of the Year Ashley Russell (2014-15 & 2013-14, Braintree High School), Olivia Healy (2012-13, Reading Memorial High School), Nicole Boudreau (2011-12 & 2010-11, Andover High School), Lauren Battista (2009-10, Oliver Ames High School), Bilqis Abdul-Qaadir (2008-09, New Leadership Charter School), Felicia Barron (2007-08, Springfield Central High School), and Carolyn Swords (2006-07, Lincoln-Sudbury 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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