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**BENTON HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Kysre Gondrezick of Benton Harbor High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Gondrezick is the second Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Benton Harbor 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 Gondrezick as Michigan'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, Gondrezick 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-9 senior guard averaged 40.5 points, 8.8 rebounds and 5.3 assists per game this past season, leading the Tigers (9-11) to the Class B district final. A two-time First Team All-State selection and a 2016 Michigan Miss Basketball finalist, Gondrezick scored a state record 72 points in an 80-78 double-overtime win over Buchanan in the opening round of the Class B district tournament.

Gondrezick has maintained a 4.24 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has served as the president of her school's student senate and the junior editor-in-chief of the Benton Spirit newspaper. She has also volunteered locally on behalf of the Steelhead Ironman Triathlon.

"Kysre Gondrezick is the best high school female athlete I have seen play the game in a long time," said Sydney Smallbone, head coach at Lakeshore High. "She is a phenomenal scorer. It is a nightmare for girls to try and guard her. She is also a class act and very well-respected by her peers. She demonstrates what it means to be a student-athlete."

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

Gondrezick joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Players of the Year Cierra Rice (2014-15, Grosse Pointe South High School), Lexi Gussert (2013-14, Forest Park High School), Tori Jankoska (2012-13, Freeland High School), Madison Ristovski (2011-12, University Liggett School), Jasmine Hines (2010-11, Central Lake High School), Madison Williams (2009-10, Detroit Country Day School), Destiny Williams (2008-09, Benton Harbor High School), Kellie Watson (2007-08, Ionia High School), and Keshia Hines (2006-07, Avondale 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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