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**FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Rylie Cascio Jensen of Fremont High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Cascio Jensen is the second Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fremont 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 Cascio Jensen as Nebraska'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, Cascio Jensen 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-10 senior guard averaged 22.0 points, 7.4 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 2.6 steals per game this past season, leading the Tigers (21-7) to the Class A state quarterfinals. A returning 2014-15 Second Team Super-State selection by the Lincoln Journal Star, Cascio Jensen shot 44.9 percent from the field, 40.7 percent from 3-point range and 78.2 percent from the free-throw line. A 2016 McDonald's All-American Game nominee, her 34 consecutive successful free throws set a Class A record this winter.

Cascio Jensen has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom, serving as president of her school's letter club and an invited member of both the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She has also received Fremont's Optimist Student of the Year and Business Student of the Year awards. In addition to donating her time as a youth basketball instructor, Elliott has also volunteered locally as part of the Adopt-A-Family program, Meals of the Heartland and her city's Memorial Day flag tribute ceremonies.

"She is a scorer but a team player at the same time," said Dave Licari, head coach at rival Columbus High. "She does what her team needs to be successful. She maintains her composure on the court at all times even though she is the focal point of every defense. To me, that is a sign of good character.

Cascio Jensen has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of South Dakota 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.

Cascio Jensen joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Maddie Simon (2014-15, Pius X High School), Jessica Shepard (2013-14 & 2012-13, Fremont High School), Brianna Craig (2011-12, Lincoln Northeast High School), Alexis Akin-Otiko (2010-11, Bellevue West High School), Jordan Hooper (2009-10 & 2007-08, Alliance High School), K.K. Houser (2008-09, Lincoln Southeast High School), and Dominique Kelley (2006-07, Lincoln Northeast 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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