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**CIBOLA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Amaya Brown of Cibola High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Brown is the third Gatorade New Mexico Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cibola 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 Brown as New Mexico'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, Brown 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 sophomore guard had led the Cougars to a 25-1 record and a berth in the quarterfinals of the Class 6A state tournament at the time of her selection. Brown averaged 18.2 points, 6.2 rebounds, 3.2 steals and 2.8 assists through 26 games. The two-time District Player of the Year, she was a First Team All-State and All-Metro selection as a freshman.

Brown has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of suicide prevention initiatives.

"Brown is multi-talented at both ends of the court," said Rick Apodaca, head coach at Santa Fe High. "She can attack the rim and shoot the mid-range jumper, but more impressive than her offense is her willingness to excel on the defensive end of the floor."

Brown will begin her junior 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Basketball Players of the Year Danni Williams (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Clovis High School), Gina Okoye (2011-12, Eldorado High School), Justina Prairie Chief (2010-11, Gallup High School), Kya DeGarmo (2009-10, Eldorado High School), Megan Muniz (2008-09, Rio Rancho High School), Brenna Freeze (2007-08, La Cueva High School), and Madison Spence (2006-07, Mayfield 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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