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**SHANLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Sarah Jacobson of Shanley High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jacobson is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Shanley 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 Jacobson as North Dakota'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, Jacobson 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 point guard has led the Deacons to a 24-0 record and a berth in the Class A semifinals, scheduled for March 10. Jacobson averaged 19.8 points and 8.2 assists per game entering the final four, shooting 42 percent from outside the arc. Also the state's 2013-14 Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, she has scored a Class A state record 2,317 points in her prep career, breaking a 31-year-old mark of 2,120 in early February. She has also led Shanley to 67 consecutive wins dating back to 2014, also a state record.

Jacobson has maintained a 4.07 weighted GPA in the classroom. An altar server at her church, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Hope Inc., the YMCA and Teens for Life.

"Sarah Jacobson is a tremendous player with great skill," said Kent Ripplinger, head coach at Red Rover High. "She is also a great leader for her team and the type of teammate you would want to play with. She always maintains her composure regardless of the situation. There's no other player in the state that has done as much as she has, not only individually, but also for her team."

Jacobson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at North Dakota State University 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.

Jacobson joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Hannah Stewart (2014-15, Bishop Ryan Catholic High School), Sarah Jacobson (2013-14, Shanley High School), Hannah Larson (2012-13, Century High School), Holly Johnson (2011-12, Minot High School), Caitlin Farroh (2010-11, Grand Forks Central High School), Meghan Roehrich (2009-10, Fargo South High School), Kelsey Sigl (2008-09, Bismarck High School), Alex Feeney (2007-08, Bismarck High School), and Jessica Kielpinski (2006-07, Mandan 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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