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**MUSKOGEE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Aaliyah Wilson of Muskogee High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Wilson is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Muskogee 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 Wilson as Oklahoma'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, Wilson 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 and forward has led the Roughers to a 23-2 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 10. Wilson averaged 17.6 points and eight rebounds per game while shooting 52 percent from inside the arc through 25 games. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, she is a McDonald's All-American and ranks as the nation's No. 30 recruit in the Class of 2016 as rated by ESPN HoopGurlz.

Wilson has maintained a 3.62 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and 2 Much 2 Lose, which helps raise awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

"Aaliyah Wilson is a special player to compete against," said Tina Thomas, head coach at Bixby High. "She's the kind of player that can be leading her team in kicking your rear and you still just sit back and really appreciate her athleticism, work ethic and ability to play the game."

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

Two-time winner Wilson joins Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Players of the Year Chelsea Dungee (2013-14, Preston High School), Lakota Beatty (2012-13, Anadarko High School), Courtney Walker (2011-12, Edmond Santa Fe High School), Ashley Clark (2010-11, Midwest City High School), Richa Jackson (2009-10, Midwest City High School), Kevi Luper (2008-09, Adair High School), Alyssia Brewer (2007-08, Sapulpa High School), and Angel Goodrich (2006-07, Sequoyah 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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