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**SOUTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Evina Westbrook of South Salem High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Westbrook is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Salem 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 Westbrook as Oregon'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, Westbrook 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 6-foot junior guard and forward led the Saxons to a 25-1 record and a berth in the Class 6A state quarterfinals against Oregon City High. At the time of her selection, Westbrook was averaging 19.3 points, 4.8 rebounds, 4.0 steals and 3.9 assists through 26 games. A 2015 Second Team All-State honoree, Westbrook is rated as the nation's No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Blue Star Basketball.

Westbrook has maintained a weighted 3.11 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of blood donation drives through the Red Cross in addition to serving as a youth basketball coach and mentor.

"Evina Westbrook is perhaps the best high school female athlete I have ever seen," said Casey Williams, head coach of Sprague High. "She can score from anywhere, at any time, against any type of defense. She is the benchmark to how we compare all other players."

Westbrook will begin her senior 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.

Westbrook joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Players of the Year Katie McWilliams (2014-15, South Salem High School), Jaime Nared (2013-14, Westview High School), Mercedes Russell (2012-13 & 2011-12, Springfield High School), Jen Reese (2010-11 & 2009-10, Clackamas High School), Kate Lanz (2008-09 & 2007-08, Central Catholic High School), and Michelle Jenkins (2006-07, Southridge 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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