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**CUMBERLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Kelly Jekot of Cumberland Valley High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jekot is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cumberland Valley 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 Jekot as Pennsylvania'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, Jekot 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 senior guard had led the Eagles to a 25-3 record and a berth in the second round of the Class AAAA state tournament at the time of her selection. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Jekot averaged 21.1 points, 6.8 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.0 steals through 28 games. USA TODAY's ALL-USA Pennsylvania Player of the Year as a junior, she was also named Miss Pennsylvania Basketball and Class AAAA Player of the Year.

Jekot has maintained an A average in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, a women's shelter, youth sports programs and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"Kelly Jekot is a phenomenal all-around basketball player," said Gabrielle Guynan, head coach at Carlisle High. "She can score off the dribble or hit from outside and she's such a smart player."

Jekot has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Villanova 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.

Two-time winner Jekot joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Players of the Year Erin Mathias (2013-14, Fox Chapel Area High School), Shatori Walker-Kimbrough (2012-13, Hopewell High School), Sierra Moore (2011-12, Delone Catholic High School), Madison Cable (2010-11, Mt. Lebanon High School), Kayla McBride (2009-10, Villa Maria Academy), Stephanie Holzer (2008-09, Cardinal O'Hara High School), Markel Walker (2007-08, Schenley School), and Jence Rhoads (2006-07, Slippery Rock Area 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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