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**SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Celia Tomlinson of South Kingstown High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Tomlinson is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Kingstown 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 Tomlinson as Rhode Island'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, Tomlinson 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 forward has led the Rebels to an 18-7 record and a berth in the Open State Tournament semifinals against Coventry High, scheduled for March 12. At the time of her selection, Tomlinson was averaging 19.4 points, 13.3 rebounds and 6.5 blocks per game through 25 games. A two-time All-Division 1 First Team honoree, she had recorded 24 double-doubles and five triple-doubles this season.

Tomlinson has maintained a weighted 3.92 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity and has traveled to Botswana to participate in an HIV prevention program. She has also donated her time as a youth basketball coach and youth soccer referee.

"Celia is an impact player having an outstanding year," said Bob Simeone, head coach of North Kingstown High. "She is carrying her team to every win. Her presence around the basket and ability to rebound and block shots make her a complete player."

Tomlinson has verbally committed to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, where she will play basketball 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.

Tomlinson joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sarah Middleton (2014-15, Barrington High School), Taylor Buckley (2013-14 & 2012-13, North Kingstown High School), Kailey Fugere (2011-12, Woonsocket High School), Kelly Mannix (2010-11, Barrington High School), Allie Jones (2009-10, South Kingstown), Torey Jones (2008-09, La Salle Academy), Brittany Wilson (2007-08, St. Mary Academy-Bay View), and Meredith Ward (2006-07, Westerly 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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