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**DREHER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Jhileiya Dunlap of Dreher High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Dunlap is the second Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dreher 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 Dunlap as South Carolina'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, Dunlap 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-2 senior forward and center led the Blue Devils to a 27-1 record and their third Class AAA state championship in five years. Dunlap collected 12 points, six rebounds and six blocks in a 45-41, title-clinching win over Myrtle Beach. A 2016 Carolinas All-Star Classic selection, she averaged 20.4 points, 7.2 rebounds, 3.6 steals, 3.1 blocks and 2.9 assists per game. Also the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association's 2015-16 Class AAA Player of the Year, she shot 58.7 percent from the field.

Dunlap has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of Academic Scholars Against Peer Pressure and Project Ladies of Vision & Excellence Ministry, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Resurrection Life Ministries' efforts to feed the homeless and the Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands at the Ben Arnold Center.

"She is one of the most talented players I have coached during my career," said Dreher head coach Teresa Jones. "Jhileiya has the natural ability to score, rebound, block shots and can handle the ball like a guard. She has been in the top of her class since she began her high school basketball career. She can play all positions when needed and will assume leadership roles. She has a great attitude and is a joy to coach."

Dunlap has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Dunlap joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kionna Jeter (2014-15, Spartanburg High School), A'ja Wilson (2013-14, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School), Alaina Coates (2012-13, Dutch Fork High School), Asia Dozier (2011-12, Spring Valley High School), Xylina McDaniel (2010-11, Spring Valley High School), Kayla Jenerette (2009-10, Travelers Rest High School), and Morgan Stroman (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07, Lower Richland 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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