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**MONACAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Megan Walker of Monacan High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Walker is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Monacan 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 Walker as Virginia'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, Walker 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-1 junior guard had led the Chiefs to a 28-1 record and a berth in the Group 4A state championship game against William Fleming High. At the time of her selection, Walker was averaging 21.4 points, 8.2 rebounds, 3.1 steals and 1.9 assists through 29 games. A Naismith Trophy Girls Basketball High School Second Team All-American, she was the 2015 Virginia High School League Class 4A Player of the Year and is rated as the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Blue Star Basketball and espnW.

Walker has maintained a weighted 3.65 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Monacan High Healthy Allies, a booster group that supports the school's Health and Physical Therapy Specialty Center, she has volunteered locally at a daycare center and as a youth basketball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group.

"Megan Walker is an exceptionally talented player," said Chevette Waller, head coach of L.C. Bird High. "She is one of the most versatile players that I have seen which makes her a triple-threat. Offensively she can score whenever she needs to."

Walker 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.

Walker joins recent Gatorade Virginia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Taja Cole (2014-15, L.C. Bird High School), Dorothy Adomako (2013-14, Cosby High School), Breyana Mason (2012-13, Forest Park High School), Caroline Coyer (2011-12, Oakton High School), Elizabeth Williams (2010-11 & 2009-10, Princess Anne High School), Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (2008-09 & 2007-08, T.C. Williams High School), and Jasmine Thomas (2006-07, Oakton 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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