

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**LYNNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Mikayla Pivec of Lynnwood High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Pivec is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lynnwood 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 Pivec as Washington'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, Pivec 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Pivec averaged 21.7 points, 14.1 rebounds, 4.4 steals and 4.1 assists per game this past season, leading the Royals (26-1) to a third-place finish in the Class 3A state tournament and capturing All-Tournament honors. The 5-foot-10 senior wing shot 52.9 percent from the field and 78.5 percent from the free-throw line. Also the 2014-15 Class 3A Player of the Year as named by the Associated Press, Pivec led Lynnwood to the Class 3A state title as a junior in 2015. She concluded her career with school records in points (1,799) and rebounds (1,429).

Also a cross country and track standout, Pivec has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered extensively on behalf of Catholic Community Services and EarthCorps, respectively, assisting families in need and maintaining local public parks and facilities.

"I may be repeating what I said last year, but I feel even stronger about it this year: After our final game against Mikayla's Lynnwood team this season, I went up to her and told her that in all my years of coaching, she is the finest player I've ever coached against," said Dori Monson, head coach at rival Shorecrest High. "For one who is such a fiery competitor on the court, she couldn't possibly be more sweet and gracious after the game. Pivec is one of the best players to ever come out of Washington."

Pivec has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Oregon State 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 Pivec joins Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Brittany McPhee (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Mt. Rainier High School), Erika Johnson (2010-11, Holy Names Academy), Mercedes Wetmore (2009-10, Auburn Riverside High School), Lindsey Moore (2008-09, Kentwood), Ashley Corral (2007-08, Prairie), and Angie Bjorklund (2006-07, University 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.

###