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**BARNEVELD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Hannah Whitish of Barneveld High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Whitish is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barneveld 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 Whitish as Wisconsin'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, Whitish 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 5-foot-9 senior guard has led the Golden Eagles to a 27-0 record and a berth in the Division 5 semifinals against Clayton, scheduled for March 11. Whitish is averaging 24.2 points, 5.2 rebounds, 4.5 steals and 4.0 assists per game. The Wisconsin State Journal and Six Rivers Conference Player of the Year, she is a three-time First Team All-State selection.

Whitish has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has raised funds to benefit cancer research and has volunteered locally on behalf of blood donation drives and youth sports camps.

"Whitish is the smoothest and most in-control girls basketball player I've seen in a very long time," said Corey Sielaff, head coach at Oregon High. "She's strong, she can shoot and she really looks to play defense, which is rare for a star offensive player."

Whitish has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Whitish joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Basketball Players of the Year Arike Ogunbowale (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Divine Savior Holy Angels High School), Nicole Bauman (2011-12, Eisenhower High School), Samantha Logic (2010-11, Case High School), Nicole Griffin (2009-10 & 2008-09, Milwaukee Vincent High School), Rachael Hencke (2007-08, Grafton High School), and Lin Zastrow (2006-07, Jefferson 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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