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**BUTLER TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jaelynn Penn of Butler Traditional High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Penn is the third Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Butler Traditional 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 Penn as Kentucky'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, Penn joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06, Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10 senior guard had led the Bearettes to a 32-2 record and a berth in the first round of the Kentucky Sweet Sixteen tournament at the time of her selection. Penn averaged 14.7 points, 6.7 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 2.2 steals through 34 games. She earned MVP honors in the 2016 state tournament for leading Butler to its second state title in three seasons and entered this year's state tournament with 1,668 points in her prep basketball career.

A four-year member of the Butler High student government, Penn has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen and as a youth basketball coach. "Jaelynn can do everything on the floor: handle, score and defend," said Josh Leslie, head coach of Eastern High. "The biggest thing with her is that she can affect the game without scoring a point."

Penn has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Indiana University beginning 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Penn joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Players of the Year Erin Boley (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Elizabethtown High School), Makayla Epps (2012-13, Marion County High School), Sydney Moss (2011-12, Boone County High School), Sara Hammond (2010-11, Rockcastle County High School), Sarah Beth Barnette (2009-10, Lexington Christian Academy), A'dia Mathies (2008-09, Iroquois High School), Tia Gibbs (2007-08, Butler Traditional High School), and Rebecca Gray (2006-07, Scott County High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jaelynn will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

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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