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**CARDINAL WUERL NORTH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Sam Breen of Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Breen is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic 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 Breen as Pennsylvania'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, Breen 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 6-foot-1 senior forward had led the Trojans to a 23-2 record and a berth in the Class AAAA state tournament at the time of her selection. Breen averaged 23.3 points, 10.0 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 2.7 steals through 25 games. The Class A Player of the Year as a junior, she is a two-time All-State honoree and the school career record-holder in points.

A devoted member of her church community, Breen has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and coaching youth basketball players. "She can do it all, offensively and defensively," said Dana Petruska, head coach at Mars Area High. "I've seen her play every position and play them to perfection. She's a great basketball player and a supportive teammate."

Breen has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Dayton 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.

Breen joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kelly Jekot (2015-16 & 2014-15, Cumberland Valley High School), Erin Mathias (2013-14, Fox Chapel Area High School), Shatori Walker-Kimbrough (2012-13, Hopewell High School), Sierra Moore (2011-12, Delone Catholic High School), Madison Cable (2010-11, Mt. Lebanon High School), Kayla McBride (2009-10, Villa Maria Academy), Stephanie Holzer (2008-09, Cardinal O'Hara High School), Markel Walker (2007-08, Schenley High School), and Jence Rhoads (2006-07, Slippery Rock Area High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Sam 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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