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**BREWBAKER TECH STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA 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 Bianca Jackson of Brewbaker Tech as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jackson is the first Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Brewbaker Tech.

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 Jackson as Alabama'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, Jackson 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-11 senior guard averaged 24.8 points, 7.8 rebounds and 5.2 assists per game this past season, leading the Rams (20-9) to the first round of the Class 5A state tournament. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Jackson set a Montgomery city single-game record with a 58-point effort in an 85-38 win over Greenville. She is ranked as the nation's No. 54 recruit in the Class of 2017 by espnW HoopGurlz.

Jackson has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group and as a youth basketball coach. "Bianca Jackson is a great basketball player and an even better young lady," said Jonathan Deveridge, head coach at Eufala High. "She's very respectful on the court and she's one of the best players I've seen. She can do it all."

Jackson has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Jackson joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jasmine Walker (2015-16, Jeff Davis High School), Shaquera Wade (2014-15, Huntsville High School), Alexis Jennings (2013-14, Sparkman High School), Marqu'es Webb (2012-13, Hoover High School), Jasmine Jones (2011-12, Bob Jones High School), Hayden Hamby (2010-11, West Morgan High School), Kaneisha Horn (2009-10, Ramsay High School), Adrienne Webb (2008-09, Sparkman High School), Courtney Jones (2007-08, Midfield High School), and Alli Smalley (2006-07, Arab High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Bianca 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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