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**RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Anastasia Hayes of Riverdale High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Hayes is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverdale 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 Hayes as Tennessee'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, Hayes 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-7 senior guard had led the Lady Warriors to a 31-0 record as well as a berth in the Class AAA state tournament and the No. 1 spot in the USA TODAY Super 25 Expert Rankings at the time of her selection. Hayes averaged 22.6 points, 5.4 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game while shooting 58 percent from the inside the arc through 31 games. A 2016 McDonald's All-American Game honoree, she is a 2017 Naismith High School Girls Player of the Year finalist and is ranked as the nation's No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2017 by espnW HoopGurlz.

Hayes has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and as a youth basketball coach. "Anastasia Hayes is the most explosive guard I've had the privilege to coach," said Riverdale High head coach Randy Coffman. "Her court vision is unmatched and her game always elevates when times are the toughest."

Hayes has maintained a 3.04 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Tennessee 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.

Hayes joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Players of the Year Crystal Dangerfield (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Blackman High School), Nina Davis (2012-13, Central High School), Bashaara Graves (2011-12, Clarksville High School), Shacobia Barbee (2010-11, Riverdale High School), Taylor Hall (2009-10, Morristown-Hamblen High School), Faith Dupree (2008-09, Webb School of Knoxville), and Glory Johnson (2007-08 & 2006-07, Webb School of Knoxville) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Anastasia 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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