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**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA 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 Alissa Pili of Dimond High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Pili is the second Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 Pili as Alaska'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, Pili 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 sophomore forward had led the Lynx to a 25-2 record and a berth in the Cook Inlet Conference tournament at the time of her selection. The conference Player of the Year, Pili averaged 25.1 points, 14.1 rebounds, 2.2 steals and 1.7 blocks through 27 games. She was MVP of the Dimond Lady Lynx Prep Shootout and earned First Team All-State honors as a freshman.

Pili has volunteered locally on behalf of the YMCA and youth basketball programs. "Physically, Alissa Pili might be the most dominant player I've witnessed play basketball in this state," said Stanley Engel, head coach at West Anchorage. "She is amazingly agile and skilled like a guard, she plays both inside and outside and she is a matchup nightmare."

Pili has maintained a 3.11 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Pili joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Ruthy Hebard (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, West Valley High School), Alysha Devine (2012-13, Wasilla High School), Hannah Mattson (2011-12, West Valley High School), Keiahna Engel (2010-11 & 2009-10, Dimond High School), Jenna Johnson (2008-09, Wasilla High School), Sylvia Bullock (2007-08, South Anchorage High School), and Talisa Rhea (2006-07, Juneau-Douglas High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Alissa 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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