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**LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Alexis Morris of Legacy Christian Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Morris is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Legacy Christian Academy.

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 Morris as Texas'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, Morris 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 point guard led the Warriors to a 34-2 record and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 3A state championship this past season. Morris averaged 31.2 points, 6.4 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 4.7 steals per game. A three-time TAPPS 3A Player of the Year, Morris is a McDonald's All-American Game selection and was a member of the USA Basketball Under-16 Girls National Team that earned a bronze medal at the 2015 FIBA Americas U16 Championship. She concluded her prep basketball career with 3,369 points.

Morris has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "Alexis pretty much does what she wants to," said Steve Krantz, head coach of Rosehill Christian School. "She is a complete player. She's a great ball-handler and finisher at the rim with unbelievable body control. She makes everyone around her better."

Morris has maintained a 3.51 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Baylor 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.

Morris joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Lauren Cox (2015-16 & 2014-15, Flower Mound High School), Brianna Turner (2013-14, Manvel High School), Ariel Atkins (2012-13, Duncanville High School), Alexis Jones (2011-12 & 2010-11, MacArthur High School), Chiney Ogwumike (2009-10, Cy-Fair High School), Brittney Griner (2008-09, Nimitz High School), and Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08 & 2006-07, Cy-Fair High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Alexis 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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