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**CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHRISTIAN STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Christyn Williams of Central Arkansas Christian as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Williams is the second Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Arkansas Christian.

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 Williams as Arkansas'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, Williams 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 junior guard led the Mustangs to a 29-5 record and the Class 4A quarterfinals this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Williams averaged 26.6 points, 8.6 rebounds, 2.4 steals and 2.1 assists per game. A member of the USA Basketball Women's U17 National Team, she is a three-time All-State honoree and is ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2018 by Blue Star Basketball.

Williams has raised money to benefit the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Arkansas Dream Center and youth basketball camps. "Christyn Williams is one of the best players I've ever seen," said Ann Ferguson, head coach at Baptist Prep. "Even more impressive than her ability to score is her ability to make every one of her teammates better. She makes big plays on defense too, and she is constantly hustling."

Williams has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall. her ability to score is her ability to make every one of her teammates better. She makes big plays on defense too, and she is constantly hustling."

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.

Two-time winner Williams joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Danberry (2014-15 & 2013-14, Conway High School), Tyler Scaife (2012-13 & 2011-12, Hall High School), Calli Berna (2010-11, Fayetteville High School), Morgan Hook (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rogers High School), Shekinna Stricklen (2007-08, Morrilton High School), and Whitney Zachariason (2006-07, Central Arkansas Christian High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Christyn 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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