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**THE BISHOP'S SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Destiny Littleton of The Bishop's School as its 2016-17 Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Littleton is the first Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from The Bishop's 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 Littleton as California'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, Littleton 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-9 senior guard had led the Knights to a 29-3 record and a berth in the Open Division state tournament at the time of her selection. Littleton averaged 44.2 points, 11.4 rebounds, 5.1 assists and 3.6 steals through 32 games, and became the first girl in state history to top 4,000 career points. The CalHi Sports Freshman, Sophomore and Junior of the Year during her first three high school seasons, she has been chosen to play in the 2017 McDonald's All-American Game.

Littleton has volunteered locally on behalf of clothing drives, youth basketball programs and an anti-gang violence initiative. "Littleton is the best player I've seen this year," said James Stewart, head coach at Scripps Ranch High. "Her range is deep, and she has good handles with a toughness to get to the basket. She has a very good basketball IQ and a skill-set to match."

Littleton has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Littleton joins recent Gatorade California Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sabrina Ionescu (2015-16, Miramonte High School), Katie Lou Samuelson (2014-15 & 2013-14, Mater Dei High School), Erica McCall (2012-13, Ridgeview High School), Nirra Fields (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis (2010-11 & 2008-09, Mater Dei High School), Chelsea Gray (2009-10, St. Mary's High School), Jasmine Dixon (2007-08, Long Beach Poly High School), and Jeanette Pohlen (2006-07, Brea Olinda High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Destiny 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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