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**GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 **Michaela Onyenwere of Grandview High School** as its **2016-17 Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Onyenwere is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grandview 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 Onyenwere as Colorado'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, Onyenwere 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-1 senior forward had led the Wolves to 26-1 and a berth in the Class 5A state final at the time of her selection. Onyenwere averaged 20.5 points and 8.6 rebounds per game while shooting 60 percent from the floor entering the state title game. She is the state's two-time returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, a 2017 McDonald's All-American Game selection and is ranked the nation's No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2017 by espnW HoopGurlyz.

A devoted parishioner in her church community, Onyenwere has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball referee. "Michaela Onyenwere is an amazing player, competitor and leader," said Chris Curneen, head coach at Cherry Creek High. "She is a classy person and has always been intense and very athletic. She has great sportsmanship and I don't know of any other coach or player that has ever had anything negative to say about her."

Onyenwere has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at UCLA 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.

Three-time winner Onyenwere joins Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Players of the Year Justine Hall (2013-14, Regis Jesuit High School), Diani Akigbogun (2012-13, Regis Jesuit High School), Michaela Neuhaus (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jamie Katuna (2010-11, Longmont High School), Quincey Noonan (2009-10, Legacy High School), Anna Prins (2008-09, Broomfield High School), Alyssa Fressle (2007-08, Highlands Ranch High School), and Melissa Jones (2006-07, Legacy High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Michaela 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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