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**CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Lexie Hull of Central Valley High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Hull is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Valley 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 Hull as Washington'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, Hull 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-2 junior guard and forward averaged 16.5 points, 7.3 rebounds and 3.2 steals per game this past season, leading the Bears (26-1) to the Class 4A quarterfinals. A First Team All-State selection and the 2016 state tournament MVP, Hull is ranked as the nation's No. 17 recruit in the Class of 2018 by [espnW HoopGurlz](#).

Hull has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, a food bank and as a youth basketball coach. "Lexie Hull is a very well-rounded player," said Cindy McCoy, head coach at Richland High. "She can score from outside or post up and she sees the floor extremely well and can deliver difficult passes. She does all of this with class and sportsmanship. She is the real deal."

Hull has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play basketball at Stanford University on scholarship beginning in the fall of 2018.

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.

Hull joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Mikayla Pivec (2015-16 & 2014-15, Lynnwood High School), Brittany McPhee (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Mt. Rainier High School), Erika Johnson (2010-11, Holy Names Academy), Mercedes Wetmore (2009-10, Auburn Riverside High School), Lindsey Moore (2008-09, Kentwood High School), Ashley Corral (2007-08, Prairie High School), and Angie Bjorklund (2006-07, University High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Lexie 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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