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**URSULINE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 **Maggie Connolly of Ursuline Academy** as its **2016-17 Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Connolly is the sixth Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ursuline 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 Connolly as Delaware'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, Connolly 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-8 junior guard had led the Raiders to a 22-1 record and a berth in the state finals at the time of her selection. Connolly averaged 13.0 points, 3.0 assists and 2.5 steals through 23 games. She is a First Team All-State and First Team All-Conference honoree and was named to the Diamond State Classic All-Tournament team.

Connolly has assisted individuals with cognitive disabilities and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and Operation Smile. "Maggie Connolly is a very, very tough player, offensively and defensively," said John Armstrong, head coach at Concord High. "She's a good shooter, a good passer—if you don't pay attention to her, she'll kill you. She's just an assassin on the court."

Connolly has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Connolly joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Players of the Year Altia Anderson (2015-16, Woodbridge High School), Adrianna Hahn (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Ursuline Academy), Anjaleace White (2011-12, Sanford School), Betnijah Laney (2010-11 & 2009-10, Smyrna High School), Dara Taylor (2008-09, Caravel Academy), Elena Delle Donne (2007-08, Ursuline Academy), and Khadijah Rushdan (2006-07, St. Elizabeth High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Maggie 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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