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**HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Jordyn Dawson of Huntington High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Dawson is the third Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Huntington 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 Dawson as West Virginia'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, Dawson 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 senior forward had led the Highlanders to a 19-3 record and a berth in the Class AAA state tournament at the time of her selection. Dawson averaged 23 points, 13 rebounds and nine steals per game while shooting 51 percent from inside the arc through 22 games. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, she has recorded 21 double-doubles this season while also averaging 6.1 assists per game.

Dawson has volunteered locally on behalf of her school's peer leadership program and as a youth basketball coach. "Jordyn Dawson is by far the toughest player that I have tried to keep off the boards in my coaching career," said Scott James, head coach at St. Alban's High. "She is very strong and has terrific instincts. She is a versatile offensive player who can take you off the dribble or pull up for the mid-range jumper."

Dawson has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Xavier University 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.

Two-time winner Dawson joins Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Shayna Gore (2014-15, Logan High School), Mychal Johnson (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph Central Catholic High School), Makenzie White (2011-12, Scott High School), Mariah Byard (2010-11 & 2009-10, North Marion High School), Whitney Bays (2008-09 & 2007-08, Huntington High School), and Mackenzie Maier (2006-07, Charleston Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jordyn 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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