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**ST. FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 19, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Emily Engstler of St. Francis Preparatory School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Engstler is the first Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Francis Preparatory 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 field, distinguishes Engstler as New York'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, Engstler 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 led the Terriers to a 19-9 record and the Brooklyn/Queens Catholic High School Athletic Association championship game this past season. Engstler averaged 18.3 points, 11.5 rebounds, 3.7 assists, 3.3 steals and 2.1 blocks per game. A Women's Basketball Coaches Association First Team All-American, she has been chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic. Engstler is ranked as the nation's No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2018 by espnW and is a finalist for Miss New York Basketball.

A tutor in her school, Engstler has volunteered locally on behalf of Harvest for the World and youth basketball programs. "Engstler can single-handedly take over a game," said Phree Edwards, head coach at Bishop Loughlin High. "She can score in the paint, she can put the ball on the floor, she can shoot from the outside too. She also has great vision and she can protect the rim on defense."

Engstler has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Syracuse University beginning 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.

Engstler joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Andra Espinoza-Hunter (2016-17, Ossining High School), Dominique Toussaint (2015-16, Christ the King High School), Lauren Brozoski (2014-15, Long Island Lutheran High School), Sierra Calhoun (2013-14 & 2012-13, Christ the King High School), Breanna Stewart (2011-12 & 2010-11, Cicero-North Syracuse High School), Bria Hartley (2009-10 & 2008-09, North Babylon High School), Samantha Prahalis (2007-08, Commack High School), and Lorin Dixon (2006-07, Christ the King High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Emily 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 the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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