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**CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Lexie Hull of Central Valley High School as its 2017-18 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 field, 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-1 senior forward led the Bears to a 27-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Hull averaged 20.4 points, 8.4 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 2.6 steals per game while shooting 56 percent from inside the 3-point arc and 39 percent behind the arc for the nation's No. 9-ranked team the USA TODAY Super 25. Hull started all 107 games of her high school career and was named Class 4A State Player of the Year in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

A three-time state qualifier in association with DECA, a national student-entrepreneurship organization, Hull has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and Spokane Stars youth basketball. "I've been coaching girls' basketball for 30 years, and Lexie Hull is one of the top two or three players I've seen in that time," said Mike Arte, head coach at Gonzaga Prep. "She possesses all the skills of a basketball player that make her great. I give her my highest recommendation for the award."

Ranked No. 1 in her class academically, Hull has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Stanford 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.

Two-time winner Hull joins 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 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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