

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Dara Mabrey of Manasquan High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Mabrey is the second Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Manasquan 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 Mabrey as New Jersey'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, Mabrey 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-7 junior guard had led the Warriors to a 28-2 record and a berth in the Group 2 semifinals at the time of her selection. Mabrey averaged 19.7 points, 3.5 rebounds and 2.4 steals through 30 games. The Shore Conference Player of the Year, she was an All-State honoree as a sophomore and was selected to the USA TODAY's All-USA New Jersey Second Team.

Mabrey has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursery school, food donation drives for the needy and youth basketball programs. "Mabrey is a driven competitor who will do whatever it takes to win," said Joe Montano, head coach at Red Bank Catholic High. "She's the focus of every opponent, but she still performs. She's an excellent shooter, and a good passer who knows how to make her teammates better."

Mabrey has maintained an A average 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.

Mabrey joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jocelyn Willoughby (2015-16, Newark Academy), Marina Mabrey (2014-15, Manasquan High School), Taylor Rooks (2013-14 & 2012-13, Gill St. Bernard's School), Michaela Mabrey (2011-12, Manasquan High School), Temi Fagbenle (2010-11, Blair Academy), Haley Peters (2009-10, Peddie School), Laurin Mincy (2008-09, University High School), Lakeisha Sutton (2007-08, Trenton Catholic Academy), and Tayler Wejnert (2006-07, Academy of the Holy Angels) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Dara 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.