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**OSSINING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Andra Espinoza-Hunter of Ossining High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Espinoza-Hunter is the second Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ossining 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 Espinoza-Hunter 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, Espinoza-Hunter 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 senior guard-forward had led the Pride to an 18-5 record and a berth in the Class AA regional semifinals at the time of her selection. Espinoza-Hunter averaged 38.2 points, 6.9 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 3.1 steals through 23 games. A former member of the USA Basketball Women's U16 National Team, she was a three-time All-State honoree in New Jersey before transferring to Ossining.

Espinoza-Hunter has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Espinoza-Hunter is such a multi-faceted player that there's almost no point in developing a defensive scheme against her," said Kris Matts, head coach at Fox Lane High. "She's a great shooter with tremendous range, but she can go coast-to-coast or post up, and she's not selfish either. She'll find her open teammates. There aren't any weaknesses in her game."

Espinoza-Hunter has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Espinoza-Hunter joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Dominique Toussaint (2015-16, Christ the King High School), Lauren Brozoski (2014-15, Long Island Lutheran High School), Sierra Calhoun (2013-14, Christ the King High School), Saniya Chong (2012-13, Ossining 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, Andra 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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