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**SUMMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Imagine Patterson of Summerville High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Patterson is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Summerville 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 track, distinguishes Patterson as South Carolina's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Patterson joins an elite alumni association of state track & field award-winners, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-6 senior won the 100-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles at the Class AAAAA state meet this past season, leading the Green Wave to an eighth-place finish as a team. Patterson's winning 400 hurdles time of 1:01.15 ranked No. 17 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection while her time of 14.13 in the 100 hurdles ranked No. 68. She concluded her prep career with six state titles.

Patterson has volunteered locally on a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research. She has also donated her time as a youth mentor and a youth track coach. "Imagine is the epitome of a winner," said Dave Lee, head coach of James Island Charter High. "One of my coaches and I were discussing whether or not we would see Imagine at the NCAA championships next season."

Patterson has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

Patterson joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Carisma Holland (2016-17, Seneca High School), Laurie Barton (2015-16 & 2014-15, D.W. Daniel High School), Raven Saunders (2013-14, Burke High School), Kaila Smith (2012-13, Beaufort High School), Jalacy Green (2011-12, Colleton County High School), LeAnna Morrison (2010-11, Berkeley High School), Briana Nelson (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, J.L. Mann Academy), and Jasmin Stowers (2006-07, Pendleton) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Patterson 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.