

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729- 3685)

**WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE
YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 29, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Abbey Green of Walter Johnson High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Maryland Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Green is the second Gatorade Maryland Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Walter Johnson 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 racecourse, distinguishes Green as Maryland's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Green joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Prep., San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-5 senior won the Class 4A state meet this past season with a time of 18:17.4, breaking the tape 39.0 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Wildcats to a fourth straight first-place finish as a team. Green took seventh at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships and then earned All-American status with a 12th-place finish at Foot Locker nationals. She is a two-time First Team All-Met honoree by the Washington Post.

A member of the National Science, Math and Spanish honor societies, Green plays in Walter Johnson High's Symphonic Orchestra. "Whether Abbey has competition or not, she gets out in front immediately and gets after her own race," said Kellie Redmond, head coach of Wootton High. "I've seen her in some very competitive races and she doesn't shy away from competition. She's always striving and fighting the entire race."

Green has maintained a weighted 4.75 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run cross country on scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Green joins Gatorade Maryland Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Maria Coffin (2016-17 & 2015-16, Annapolis High School), Nora McUmbler (2014-15, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School), Ellie Gonzalez (2013-14, The Catholic High School of Baltimore), Caroline Beakes (2012-13, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School), Hannah Oneda (2011-12, Winters Mill High School), Maura Linde (2010-11, Century High School), Jessie Rubin (2009-10, Thomas S. Wootton High School), Anna Bosse (2008-09, Walter Johnson High School), and Louise Hannallah (2007-08, Winston Churchill High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Green 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/>.

###