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**UPLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Joseph Anderson of Upland High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Anderson is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Upland 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 Anderson as California's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Anderson 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-10, 168-pound senior won the 110-meter high hurdles with a state-record time of 13.33 seconds and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 36.02 at the state championship meet this past season. Anderson's 110 hurdles time was ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection, while his winning effort in the 300 hurdles ranked No. 3 nationally. He also broke the tape in the 110 hurdles at this month's Brooks PR Invitational.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Anderson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and youth track programs. "When you're around Joseph, you immediately know that there is something special about him, and that he is destined for greatness," said Upland High School coach Tarina Brown. "He's a natural leader and his genuine love for the sport is visible to all."

Anderson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Anderson joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Michael Norman (2015-16 & 2014-15, Vista Murrieta High School), Nate Moore (2013-14, Castro Valley High School), Khalfani Muhammad (2012-13, Notre Dame High School), Darren Fahy (2011-12, La Costa Canyon High School), Remontay McClain (2010-11, Covina High School), Sean Krinik (2009-10, Valencia High School), Mac Fleet (2008-09, University City High School), German Fernandez (2007-08, Riverbank High School), and David Klech (2006-07, California High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Joseph 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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