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## **ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Skylurr Patrick of Rogers High School** as its **2017-18 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Patrick is the third Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rogers 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 field, distinguishes Patrick as Arkansas's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Patrick joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The 5-foot-6 senior midfielder led the Mountaineers to a 19-5-1 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Patrick scored 45 goals and passed for 14 assists, tallying a hat trick in a 3-2, overtime win over Bryant High in the title game. She also scored both goals in Rogers' 2-1 win over Fort Smith-Southside High in the semifinals. Patrick was the Class 7A West All-Conference Newcomer of the Year as a freshman, but did not play soccer for her high school as a sophomore or junior.

Patrick has volunteered locally at the Samaritan Shop in Rogers, and she has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. "I had a good team but we couldn't stop Skylurr," said Kerry Castillo, head coach of Cabot High. "I just had to hope she made a mistake or missed her shot. She is a dangerous player."

Patrick has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at Purdue University 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.

Patrick joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caroline Campbell (2016-17 & 2015-16, Bryant High School), McKenzie Dixon (2014-15 & 2013-14, Bentonville High School), Tayler Estrada (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Bentonville High School), Anne Mitchell (2009-10, Fayetteville), April Miller (2008-09, Bentonville), Mary Pat Hardin (2007-08, Mount St. Mary Academy), and Alyvia Rogers (2006-07, Rogers) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Patrick 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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