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**CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2017) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Derryk Snell of Chugiak High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year. Snell is the second Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Chugiak 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 Snell as Alaska's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in December, Snell joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mitchell Trubisky (2012-13, Mentor High School, Ohio), Greg Olsen (2002-03, Wayne Hills High School, N.J.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06 Highland Park High School, Texas), Harrison Smith (2006-07 Knoxville Catholic High School, Tenn.), Latavius Murray (2007-08, Onondaga High School, N.Y.), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School, Mont.) and Leonard Fournette (2014-15 & 2012-13, St. Augustine High School, La.).

The 6-foot-2, 220-pound senior running back and linebacker amassed 2,197 total yards and 38 touchdowns this past season, leading the Mustangs to a 9-1 record and a berth in the Large Schools state semifinals. On defense, Snell made 67 tackles (13.5 for loss) with four sacks, three forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and an interception. The Large Schools Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, Snell rushed for 1,374 yards to go with 823 yards receiving this fall.

A volunteer with the Special Olympics, Snell is also involved with his local church youth group as well as the Lions Club, Elks Club and the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he has worked as a youth football and basketball coach as well as a camp counselor. "Derryk Snell is a tremendous athlete a fierce competitor," said Service High (Anchorage) head coach Jason Calderera. "He's a very competitive kid, one of those who definitely has a presence on the field. He stands out—he singlehandedly really helped that team."

Snell has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Montana State University in the fall of 2018.

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.

Snell joins recent Gatorade Alaska Football Players of the Year Brenner Furlong (2016-17, Soldotna High School), Ethan Falaniko (2015-16, Bartlett High School), Anthony Griffith (2014-15, Ben Eielson High School), Leroy Elliott (2013-14, West Anchorage High School), Conor Feckley (2012-13, West Anchorage High School), A.J. Hull (2011-12, Kenai Central High School), Robbie Smithwick (2010-11, Soldotna High School), and Justin Kauffman (2009-10, West Anchorage High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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