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**PALMER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO 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 Ty Evans of Palmer Ridge High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year. Evans is the first Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Palmer Ridge 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 Evans as Colorado'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, Evans 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-3, 190-pound junior quarterback passed for 3,659 yards and 42 touchdowns while throwing just seven interceptions this past season, leading the Bears to a 14-0 mark and the first state title in program history. The All-East Metro League Offensive MVP and a CHSAA All-State selection as a sophomore, Evans also rushed for 168 yards and eight TDs this fall, accounting for 49 total TDs.

In addition to being active in his church community, neighborhood clean-up efforts in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and the Habitat for Humanity, Evans coaches and referees youth football while also serving on the Principal's Leadership Advisory Committee at his school. "Ty is so good, he is like an ambassador for Colorado high school football," said Coronado High head coach Monte Gutowski. "He's just a great talent who can help blaze a path for others in the state."

Evans has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided on his collegiate destination.

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.

Evans joins recent Gatorade Colorado Football Players of the Year Dylan McCaffrey (2016-17, Valor Christian High School), JoJo Domann (2015-16, Pine Creek High School), Andrew Wingard (2014-15, Ralston Valley High School), Christian McCaffrey (2013-14 & 2012-13, Valor Christian High School), Joe Hansley (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jaleel Awini (2010-11, Rangeview High School), and Austin Hinder (2009-10, Steamboat Springs High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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