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**KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Spencer Lockwood of Killingly High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year. Lockwood is the first Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Killingly 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 Lockwood as Connecticut'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, Lockwood 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 5-foot-11, 190-pound senior running back and linebacker had led the Redmen to a 12-0 record and a berth in the Class M state championship game at the time of his selection. Lockwood rushed for 3,027 yards and 42 touchdowns thru 12 games. Defensively, he recorded 66 tackles and three interceptions entering the state title game. A Class M All-State selection as a junior, Lockwood entered his final high school game ranked fourth in state history with 7,206 career rushing yards.

Lockwood has volunteered locally as an at-risk mentor for elementary school students and he has donated his time at a food pantry and as a youth football coach. "Spencer Lockwood has had a tremendous season. Truth be told, everyone knows what Killingly's going to do, and still they haven't stopped it. Spencer has the power to get the tough yards and the explosiveness to go the distance."

Lockwood has maintained a weighted 3.41 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He remains undecided upon a 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.

Lockwood joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Football Players of the Year Ben Mason (2016-17, Newtown High School), Mark Evanchick (2015-16, Darien High School), Zach Allen (2014-15, New Canaan High School), Dario Highsmith (2013-14, Middletown High School), Colin Moore (2012-13, Avon High School), Casey Cochran (2011-12 & 2010-11, Masuk High School), and Kevin Pierre-Louis (2009-10, King Low Heywood Thomas School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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