

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**IOWA CITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Evan Flitz of Iowa City West High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year. Flitz is the third Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Iowa City West 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 Flitz as Iowa'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, Flitz 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, 180-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,978 yards and 31 touchdowns this past season, leading the Trojans to a 12-1 record and the Class 4A state final. Flitz completed 207 of 293 passes and threw just five interceptions, also rushing for 549 yards and 10 touchdowns on 104 carries. An Honorable Mention All-State selection as a junior, he broke Class 4A state championship game records for completions (30) and yards passing (347).

Flitz is founder of his school's environmental club, SustainabiliTrees. "Flitz is a dynamic quarterback who runs the ball very well and throws it even better," said Mo Blue, head coach at Cedar Rapids Washington High. "I think the best thing about him are his intangibles: His calmness under pressure is very noticeable and he's one of those guys that makes everyone around him better."

Flitz has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. 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.

Flitz joins recent Gatorade Iowa Football Players of the Year Oliver Martin (2016-17, Iowa City West High School), Noah Clayberg (2015-16, Pella High School), Ryan Boyle (2014-15 & 2013-14, Dowling Catholic High School), Jesse Ertz (2012-13, Mediapolis High School), Barkley Hill (2011-12, Cedar Falls High School), Connor Bravard (2010-11, Dowling Catholic High School), and James Morris (2009-10, Solon High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Flitz 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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