

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**DR. HENRY A. WISE, JR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Anthony Lytton Jr. of Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year. Lytton Jr. is the first Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. 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 Lytton Jr. as Maryland'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, Lytton Jr. 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, 170-pound senior defensive back and wide receiver caught 34 passes for 523 yards and seven touchdowns this past season, leading the Pumas to their third consecutive Class 4A state title. Lytton also anchored a defense that notched six shutouts and allowed just 7.1 points per game, recording 32 tackles, three interceptions and two forced fumbles. He earned First Team All-State and Second Team Washington Post All-Met honors as a junior, and he has been selected to play in the 2018 Under Armour All-America Game.

A devoted member of his church community, Lytton has participated in clothing drives and has volunteered locally feeding the homeless. "Lytton is a top-notch player with great speed," said Ed Shields, head coach at Suitland High. "He's an excellent cover guy with very good ball skills and his ability to run with the receiver sets him apart. A lot of people just won't throw to his side."

Lytton has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Florida 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.

Lytton Jr. joins recent Gatorade Maryland Football Players of the Year Travis Levy (2016-17, Sherwood High School), Jake Funk (2015-16, Damascus High School), Dwayne Haskins (2014-15, Bullis School), Taiwan Deal (2013-14, DeMatha Catholic High School), Kendall Fuller (2012-13, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Cyrus Jones (2011-12, Gilman School), Darius Jennings (2010-11, Gilman School), and Zach Zwinak (2009-10, Linganore High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Lytton Jr. 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/>.

###