

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)**

**TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2017) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Isaiah Williams of Trinity Catholic High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year. Williams is the first Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Catholic 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 Williams as Missouri'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, Williams 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 junior quarterback passed for 1,898 yards and 29 touchdowns this past season, leading the Titans to a 9-1 record and the third round of the Class 2 playoffs. Williams completed 83 of 135 passes with eight interceptions, also rushing for 383 yards and two touchdowns on 42 carries. The Archdiocesan Athletic Association Player of the Year, he is also an All-State selection and was ranked as the nation's No. 27 recruit in the Class of 2019 by ESPN.

Williams has volunteered locally as a student leader with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "Isaiah Williams is an outstanding athlete and competitor," said Andy Hare, head coach at Living Word Christian School. "He's got great quickness and speed, and he's extremely difficult to contain in the passing game. He's a true dual threat."

Williams has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Missouri Football Players of the Year Alex Huston (2016-17, Glendale High School), Skylar Thompson (2015-16, Fort Osage High School), T.J. Green (2014-15, Rockhurst High School), Dalvin Warmack (2013-14 & 2012-13, Blue Springs High School), Dorial Green-Beckham (2011-12 & 2010-11, Hillcrest High School), and Darrian Miller (2009-10, Blue Springs High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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