

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

**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Gabe Sulser of Billings Senior High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year. Sulser is the second Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Sulser as Montana'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, Sulser 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-9, 165-pound senior wide receiver caught 85 passes for 1,109 yards and 11 touchdowns this past season, leading the Broncos to a 13-0 record and the Class AA state championship. Sulser also rushed for 997 yards and 16 touchdowns on 106 carries. A four-time All-State selection, he was named Class AA Offensive MVP.

A devoted member of his church community, Sulser has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school literacy initiative. "Gabe Sulser is the biggest offensive difference-maker in AA football," said Levi Wesche, head coach at Bozeman High. "When they need a big play, they give him the ball. He's got great speed, but he breaks a lot of tackles as well. He does it from the backfield, he does it as a slot receiver, he runs the wildcat. They play him everywhere on the field and he's effective everywhere."

Sulser has maintained a 3.81 average in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Montana 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.

Sulser joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Nathan Dick (2016-17, Billings Senior High School), Balue Chapman (2015-16, Bozeman High School), Andrew Grinde (2014-15, C.M. Russell High School), Will Dissly (2013-14, Bozeman High School), Gunnar Brekke (2012-13, Capital High School), Caleb Kidder (2011-12, Capital High School), Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School), and Matt Miller (2009-10, Capital High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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