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**TROTWOOD-MADISON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 Ra'veion Hargrove of Trotwood-Madison High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year. Hargrove is the first Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Trotwood-Madison 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 Hargrove as Ohio'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, Hargrove 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-6, 171-pound senior running back led the Rams to a 15-0 record and the Division III state championship this past season. Hargrove rushed for 2,264 yards and 30 touchdowns and caught 11 passes for 235 yards and four scores. The Division III co-Offensive Player of the Year and the runner-up for Ohio's Mr. Football award, he concluded his prep football career with 7,367 rushing yards, which ranks seventh in state history.

Hargrove has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and he has donated his time as part of multiple community-beautification projects. "Ra'veion Hargrove is dangerous in both the passing and running game," said Derek Hauk, head coach of West Carrollton High. "He is one of the most talented players I have seen in 10 years of coaching."

Hargrove has maintained a weighted 3.10 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Bowling Green 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.

Hargrove joins recent Gatorade Ohio Football Players of the Year Michael Warren (2016-17, Central Catholic High School), Tommy Kraemer (2015-16, Elder High School), Joe Burrow (2014-15 & 2013-14, Athens High School), Mitch Trubisky (2012-13, Mentor High School), Maty Mauk (2011-12 & 2010-11, Kenton High School), and Jordan Hicks (2009-10, Lakota West High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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