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**LEHI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Cammon Cooper of Lehi High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year. Cooper is the first Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lehi 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 Cooper as Utah'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, Cooper 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-4, 210-pound senior quarterback broke state records for completions, passing yards and touchdowns passes this past season, leading the Pioneers to a 12-2 record and the Class 5A state championship. Cooper completed 331 of 523 passes for 4,726 yards and 58 touchdowns, throwing just nine interceptions. An All-State selection and the Region 4 MVP, he also set a state career record with 118 touchdown passes.

Cooper has volunteered locally on behalf of a long-term care facility, an elementary school fitness program and youth football teams. "Cammon Cooper is one of the best quarterbacks I've seen in a long time," said Zac Erekson, head coach at Skyline High. "He has the poise of a 30-year-old. Seeing him play live, it's as if the game is in slow motion for him."

Cooper has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Washington 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.

Cooper joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Joshua Davis (2016-17, Alta High School), Simi Fehoko (2015-16, Brighton High School), Austin Kafentzis (2014-15 & 2012-13, Jordan High School), Scott Nichols (2013-14, Bingham High School), Chase Hansen (2011-12, Lone Peak High School), Alex Kuresa (2010-11, Mountain Crest High School), and Harvey Langi (2009-10, Bingham High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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