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**MINOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2016) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jaylond Adams of Minor High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alabama Football Player of the Year. Adams is the first Gatorade Alabama Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Minor 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 Adams as Alabama'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, Collins joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.), Greg Olsen (2002-03, Wayne Hills HS, N.J.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06 Highland Park HS, Texas), Harrison Smith (2006-07 Knoxville Catholic High School, Tenn.), Latavius Murray (2007-08, Onondaga HS, N.Y.), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School, Mont.) and Leonard Fournette (2012-13, 2014-15, St. Augustine HS, La.)

The 5-foot-10, 177-pound senior wide receiver, running back and kick returner caught 77 passes for 1,502 yards and 19 touchdowns this past season, leading the Tigers (11-2) to the Class 6A state quarterfinals. Boasting 4.3 speed in the 40-yard dash, Adams also had 86 carries for 725 yards and 13 scores. He also returned both a kickoff and punt for touchdowns. A 2015 Second Team All-State selection, he scored multiple touchdowns in 12 of Minor's 13 games.

Adams has maintained a B average in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has volunteered locally with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and donated his time to an elementary school literacy-outreach program.

"Jaylond is the best football player in the state," said Matt Plunkett, head coach of Gardendale High. "His speed is what sets him apart. You can't defend him in man or zone. He is too fast to get a good hit on him."

Adams remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Adams joins recent Gatorade Alabama Football Players of the Year Ty Pigrome (2015-16, Clay-Chalkville High School), Kerryon Johnson (2014-15, Madison Academy), Racean 'Roc' Thomas (2013-14, Oxford High School), Nick Mullens (2012-13, Spain Park High School), Jameis Winston (2011-12, Hueytown High School), Jamal Golden (2010-11, Wetumpka High School), and Coty Blanchard (2009-10, Cherokee County High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Adams 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).