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**VALOR CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2016) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Dylan McCaffrey of Valor Christian High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year. McCaffrey is the second Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Valor Christian 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 McCaffrey as Colorado'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 6-foot-5, 215-pound senior quarterback led the Eagles to an 11-3 record and a second straight Class 5A state championship this past season. McCaffrey completed 204-of-306 passes for 2,796 yards and 31 touchdowns against just five interceptions. A U.S. Army All-American selection and a finalist for the Maxwell Football Club's National High School Player of the Year award, McCaffrey also rushed for 579 yards and 10 scores. The 2015 Class 5A Player of the Year, he concluded his prep football career with 80 touchdown passes.

McCaffrey has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Dare to Play football camp, which serves young people with Down Syndrome, and he completed a service-mission trip to Thailand where he dug trenches to bring running water to a remote village.

"Dylan has had an exceptional career," said Rod Sherman, head coach of Valor Christian High. "He has developed into the top leader on our squad. He has never been about his stats, records or anything of the like."

McCaffrey has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Michigan in the fall of 2017.

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.

McCaffrey joins recent Gatorade Colorado Football Players of the Year JoJo Domann (2015-16, Pine Creek High School), Andrew Wingard (2014-15, Ralston Valley High School), Christian McCaffrey (2013-14 & 2012-13, Valor Christian High School), Joe Hansley (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jaleel Awini (2010-11, Rangeview High School), and Austin Hinder (2009-10, Steamboat Springs) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, McCaffrey 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.

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