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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Kasim Hill of St. John's College High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year. Hill is the fifth Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Hill as District of Columbia'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-3, 225-pound senior quarterback passed for 1,431 yards and 16 touchdowns this past season, leading the Cadets to an 8-4 record and the finals of the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference postseason tournament. Hill completed 115 of 176 passes and was intercepted just four times. He also rushed for 885 yards and 10 touchdowns on 75 carries. An All-Conference honoree, he was ranked as the nation's No. 6 pro-style quarterback recruit in the Class of 2017 by Rivals.com.

Hill has maintained a 3.32 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally feeding the homeless, mentoring elementary school students and raising funds for the National Down Syndrome Society.

"Kasim Hill is an extremely talented football player," said Joe Wysokinski, head coach at St. Mary's Ryken High. "He's poised in the pocket and he plays the position with extreme confidence."

Hill has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Hill joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Football Players of the Year Terrell Hall (2015-16, St. John's College High School), Richie Petitbon (2014-15, Gonzaga College High School), D'Andre Payne (2013-14, H.D. Woodson High School), Yannick Ngakoue (2012-13, Friendship Collegiate Academy), Albert Reid (2011-12, Friendship Collegiate Academy), Kevin Hogan (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), and Ricardo Young (2009-10, H.D. Woodson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Hill 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.