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**SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII 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 Tua Tagovailoa of Saint Louis School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year. Tagovailoa is the tenth Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Louis 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 Tagovailoa as Hawaii'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-1, 212-pound senior quarterback led the Crusaders to a 10-1 record and the Open Division state championship this past season. Tagovailoa completed 193-of-285 passes for 2,669 yards and 27 touchdowns, also rushing for 727 yards and eight scores. A U.S. Army All-American and a finalist for the Maxwell Football Club's National High School Player of the Year award, he finished his prep career with a state-record 8,158 passing yards.

Tagovailoa has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered with a Youth Ministry delivering monthly devotionals in communities statewide and he has donated his time locally with an elementary school literacy-outreach program in addition to serving a youth football coach.

"Tua can offensively dominate, dictate and destroy opponents," said Wendell Look, head coach of 'Iolani School. "Trying to defend the Crusader offense is so difficult because he can beat you with his legs and arm."

Tagovailoa has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Tagovailoa joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Football Players of the Year Vavae Malepeai (2015-16, Mililani High School), McKenzie Milton (2014-15, Mililani High School), Larry Tuileta (2013-14 & 2012-13, Punahou School), Steven Lakalaka (2011-12, Punahou School), Marcus Mariota (2010-11, Saint Louis High School), and Andrew Manley (2009-10, Leilehua High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tagovailoa 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.