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**LOYOLA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Jake Marwede of Loyola Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year. Marwede is the first Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Loyola Academy.

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 Marwede as Illinois'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, 240-pound senior tight end caught 42 passes for 580 yards and six touchdowns this past season, leading the Ramblers to a 13-1 record and the Class 8A state final. Marwede also rushed for 342 yards and 15 touchdowns on 68 carries as a wildcat quarterback. The Chicago Sun-Times Player of the Year, he has been selected to play in the 2017 Under Armour All-America Game.

Marwede has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has assisted the developmentally disabled and has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children, a food pantry and youth football camps.

"Jake Marwede is by far one of the most dominant players that I have seen in high school football," said Todd Kuska, head coach at St. Rita High. "He has the ability to play multiple spots and influence the game from each of the positions."

Marwede has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Duke University 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.

Marwede joins recent Gatorade Illinois Football Players of the Year Sam Brodner (2015-16, Glenbard West High School), Gabe Green (2014-15, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School), Justin Jackson (2013-14 & 2012-13, Glenbard North High School), Blake Winkler (2011-12, Lincoln-Way East High School), Reilly O'Toole (2010-11, Wheaton Warrenville South High School), and Christian Lombard (2009-10, William Fremd High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Marwede 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.