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**IOWA CITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA 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 Oliver Martin of Iowa City West High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year. Martin is the second Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Iowa City West 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 Martin as Iowa'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, 195-pound senior wide receiver caught 85 passes for 1,272 yards and 14 touchdowns this past season, leading the Trojans to a 10-3 record and the Class 4A state final. Martin also averaged 26.1 yards per kickoff return and 18.8 yards per punt return. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he has been chosen to play in the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Martin has maintained a B average in the classroom. Also a baseball and swimming standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, youth sports programs and community clean-up initiatives.

"Oliver Martin is an outstanding player," said Jake Mueller, head coach at Muscatine High. "He's the best receiver that we've ever played against. We had to change our entire defensive game plan to try to limit his effectiveness."

Martin 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.

Martin joins recent Gatorade Iowa Football Players of the Year Noah Clayberg (2015-16, Pella High School), Ryan Boyle (2014-15 & 2013-14, Dowling Catholic High School), Jesse Ertz (2012-13, Mediapolis High School), Barkley Hill (2011-12, Cedar Falls High School), Connor Bravard (2010-11, Dowling Catholic High School), and James Morris (2009-10, Solon High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Martin 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).