

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Jamale Carothers of Bowling Green High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year. Carothers is the second Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bowling Green 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 Carothers as Kentucky'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 5-foot-9, 190-pound senior running back rushed for 1,410 yards and 27 touchdowns on 187 carries this past season, leading the Purples to a perfect 15-0 record and their second consecutive Class 5A state championship. Carothers also caught 45 passes for 884 yards and 11 touchdowns. He scored five times in the state title game. An All-State honoree as a junior, he is a three-time All-Conference selection.

Carothers has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a tutor, an elementary school mentor and a youth football camp counselor.

"Carothers makes the game look so easy," said Chad Lewis, head coach at John Hardin High. "He can do it all. He runs well, blocks well, catches the ball out of the backfield. He's an unselfish player too, and an outstanding young man."

Carothers will attend the U.S. Naval Academy in the fall of 2017, where he will play football.

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.

Carothers joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Football Players of the Year Kash Daniel (2015-16, Paintsville High School), Elijah Sindelar (2014-15, Caldwell County High School), Damien Harris (2013-14, Madison Southern High School), James Quick (2012-13, Trinity High School), Patrick Towles (2011-12, Highlands High School), Lamar Dawson (2010-11, Boyle County High School), and Antonio Andrews (2009-10, Fort Campbell High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Carothers 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.