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**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Nathan Dick of Billings Senior High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year. Dick is the first Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Dick as Montana'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-10, 185-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,639 yards and 34 touchdowns this past season, leading the Broncs to a perfect 13-0 record and the Class AA state championship. Dick completed 187 of 271 passes and was intercepted just three times. He also ran for 1,222 yards and 19 touchdowns on 153 carries. Dick was named the Class AA Offensive MVP each of the last two seasons.

Dick has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, a homeless shelter and an elementary school reading initiative.

"Nate Dick is so special with the football in his hands," said Arie Grey, head coach at Butte High. "He has great vision, and if you give him a chance to run, he'll run all over you. He's one of the most dynamic kids I've seen, and he's a tremendous competitor, day in and day out."

Dick 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.

Dick joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Balue Chapman (2015-16, Bozeman High School), Andrew Grinde (2014-15, C.M. Russell High School), Will Dissly (2013-14, Bozeman High School), Gunnar Brekke (2012-13, Capital High School), Caleb Kidder (2011-12, Capital High School), Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School), and Matt Miller (2009-10, Capital High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Dick 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.