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**TIMBER CREEK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Devin Leary of Timber Creek Regional High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year. Leary is the first Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Timber Creek Regional 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 Leary as New Jersey'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-2, 185-pound junior quarterback set state single-season records by passing for 3,688 yards and 48 touchdowns this past season, leading the Chargers to a 12-0 record and the South Jersey Group 4 championship. Leary completed 198 of 316 passes and was intercepted just four times. He was an All-Conference and All-South Jersey honoree as a sophomore.

Leary has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Camden Rescue Mission, a food bank and youth football programs.

"Leary is the best high school quarterback I've seen since I coached Joe Flacco," said Mark Deal, head coach at Clearview High. "He possesses a strong and accurate arm to go along with the ability to read defenses and make great decisions."

Leary will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Leary joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Football Players of the Year Jordan Fuller (2015-16, Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan), Brandon Wimbush (2014-15, Saint Peter's Preparatory School), Mark Fossati (2013-14, Saint Joseph Regional High School), Jonathan Germano (2012-13, Bergen Catholic High School), Jamauri Bogan (2011-12, Union High School), Savon Huggins (2010-11, Saint Peter's Preparatory School), and Tony Jones (2009-10, Don Bosco Preparatory School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Leary 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.