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**JONES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Brandon George of Jones High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year. George is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Jones 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 George as Oklahoma'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.)

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-1, 200-pound senior quarterback had led the Longhorns to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Class 3A state championship game. George had completed 218 of 307 passes for 3,854 yards and 43 touchdowns through 14 games, with just five interceptions. A member of the Oklahoman's Super 30, he had also rushed for 1,192 yards and 21 touchdowns on 120 carries.

George has maintained a 3.12 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and youth football programs.

"George can run, he can throw and he really understands the game," said Darren Melton, head coach at Lincoln Christian High. "He's a fabulous leader and he always puts his team in good plays. He's impossible to prepare for because he can do everything on the field."

George 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.

George joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year Mason Fine (2015-16 & 2014-15, Locust Grove High School), Cameron Batson (2013-14, Millwood High School), Stanvon Taylor (2012-13, East Central High School), Andrew Hearon (2011-12, Metro Christian Academy), David Glidden (2010-11, Mustang High School), and Demarco Cobbs (2009-10, Central High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, George 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.