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**WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 Tim Tawa of West Linn High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year. Tawa is the first Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year to be chosen from West Linn 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 Tawa as Oregon'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.)

A two-time returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11, 182-pound senior quarterback led the Lions to a 14-0 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Tawa completed 264-of-382 passes for 3,989 yards and 55 touchdowns against just one interception. He also ran for 461 yards and nine scores. A 2015 First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep football career with 11,352 passing yards and 143 touchdowns through the air, both state records.

Tawa has maintained a weighted 4.13 GPA in the classroom. A member of the West Linn High math and science clubs, he has volunteered locally as a mentor to incoming freshmen and as a youth football coach.

"Tim Tawa is the most prolific passer in Oregon history," said Elvis Akpla, head coach of Lakeridge High. "Even though West Linn has plenty of talent at a number of positions, Tim makes them virtually unbeatable."

Tawa has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Stanford University in the fall of 2017.

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.

Three-time winner Tawa joins Gatorade Oregon Football Players of the Year Keegan Lawrence (2013-14, Sherwood High School), Jake LaCoste (2012-13, West Albany High School), Steven Long (2011-12, Lake Oswego High School), Brett Smith (2010-11, West Salem High School), and Jordan Johnson (2009-10, Sheldon High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tawa 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).