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**CLAIRTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Lamont Wade of Clairton High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year. Wade is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Clairton 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 Wade as Pennsylvania'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 5-foot-10, 190-pound senior running back and cornerback had led the Bears to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Class A state championship game. Wade had rushed for 2,298 yards and 32 touchdowns on 164 carries through 14 games, averaging 14.0 yards per attempt. He had also intercepted four passes and recorded 39.5 tackles. A two-time All-State honoree and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Player of the Year, Wade has been selected to play in the 2017 Under Armour All-America Game.

Wade has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. An elementary school mentor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and his church's youth ministry.

"Lamont Wade plays the game the way it's supposed to be played," said Joe Salvino, former coach at Monessen High. "He's a pure athlete and he's so dangerous with the ball in his hands. He's excellent at cornerback too, and he can defend the run just as well as the pass."

Wade remains undecided upon a collegiate decision.

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.

Wade joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Players of the Year Brandon McIlwain (2015-16, Council Rock High School North), Ben DiNucci (2014-15, Pine-Richland High School), Andrew Ford (2013-14, Cedar Cliff High School), Matt Bodamer (2012-13, Port Allegany High School), Noah Spence (2011-12, Bishop McDevitt High School), Brendan Nosovitch (2010-11, Allentown Central Catholic High School), and Kyle Smith (2009-10, Lancaster Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Wade 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).