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**BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Kwity Paye of Bishop Hendricken High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year. Paye is the fourth Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Hendricken 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 Paye as Rhode Island'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-4, 237-pound senior defensive end and running back led the Hawks to a 12-0 record and the State Championship Super Bowl title this past season. Paye recorded 61 tackles, 11 for losses, and 4.5 sacks on defense, while rushing 44 times for 651 yards and 13 touchdowns thanks to 14.8 yards-per-carry average. He ran for four scores and made 14 tackles in a 48-28 win over La Salle Academy in the state title game. An Under Armour All-American, Paye was the state's 2015 Lineman of the Year and a First-Team All-State honoree.

Paye has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research and with the Special Olympics. He has also donated his time on weekends cleaning his church.

"Kwity Paye is a dominant football player whether it was on the defensive line or in the backfield," said Mike Sassi, head coach of St. Raphael Academy. "Hendricken would be good without him; with him, they are unbeatable."

Paye has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Paye joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Football Players of the Year Nick Andreozzi (2015-16, East Greenwich High School), Alfred Dorbor (2014-15, St. Raphael Academy), Matt Sewall (2013-14, Portsmouth High School), Anthony Francis (2012-13, La Salle Academy), Josh Morris (2011-12, La Salle Academy), Ben Willett (2010-11, Portsmouth High School), and Mike Read (2009-10, Barrington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Paye 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.