

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Shawn Robinson of DeSoto High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year. Robinson is the first Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from DeSoto 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 Robinson as Texas'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, 217-pound senior quarterback had led the Eagles to a 14-0 record, a No. 3 ranking in the USA TODAY Super 25 and a berth in the Class 6A Division II semifinals. Robinson had completed 167 of 286 passes for 3,052 yards and 26 touchdowns through 14 games. He had also rushed for 1,139 yards and 17 touchdowns on 120 carries. Robinson has been chosen to play in the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Robinson has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and has participated in an elementary school reading initiative.

"Shawn Robinson has the full package," said John Walsh, Guyer High head coach. "He's got size, strength, speed and he's a very cerebral kid too. He can make any throw in the book, and he can turn a bad play into a great play."

Robinson has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Texas Christian 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.

Robinson joins recent Gatorade Texas Football Players of the Year Tren'Davian Dickson (2015-16, Navasota High School), Kyler Murray (2014-15 & 2013-14, Allen High School), Kenny Hill (2012-13, Southlake Carroll High School), Johnathan Gray (2011-12 & 2010-11, Aledo High School), and Scotty Young (2009-10, Billy Ryan High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Robinson 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.