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**ALTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Joshua Davis of Alta High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year. Davis is the third Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Alta 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 Davis as Utah'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 5-foot-9, 190-pound senior running back rushed for 2,645 yards and 28 touchdowns on 269 carries this past season, leading the Hawks to the Class 4A semifinals. Davis also caught 30 passes for 413 yards and broke the state single-season record for all-purpose yards with 3,834. He is a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

Davis has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement home.

"Davis is a dynamic game-changer," said Cazzie Brown, head coach at Hillcrest High. "He's got great agility to start, stop and start again, and he's got great hands out of the backfield. He has the ability to take the game over by himself."

Davis 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.

Davis joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Simi Fehoko (2015-16, Brighton High School), Austin Kafentzis (2014-15 & 2012-13, Jordan High School), Scott Nichols (2013-14, Bingham High School), Chase Hansen (2011-12, Lone Peak High School), Alex Kuresa (2010-11, Mountain Crest High School), and Harvey Langi (2009-10, Bingham High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Davis 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.

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