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**BURR & BURTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Griff Stalcup of Burr & Burton Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year. Stalcup is the second Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Burr & Burton Academy.

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 Stalcup as Vermont'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-1, 185-pound senior quarterback and safety passed for 1,868 yards and 32 touchdowns this past season, leading the Bulldogs (10-1) to the Division II state championship game. Stalcup also rushed for 500 yards and 11 scores, while on defense he recorded 42 tackles and two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown. As a junior, he was First Team All-State as a quarterback and First Team All-Division II as both a quarterback and safety.

Stalcup has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. Selected to attend the Vermont State Athletic Directors Leadership Conference, he has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit Grassroot Soccer, which helps children in developing countries, in addition to serving as an official for youth basketball and baseball games.

"Griff Stalcup was the best quarterback in the state, hands down," said Brennan Carney, head coach of Burlington High. "He did a great job with his arm and his feet. They went as he went."

Stalcup 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.

Stalcup joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Carson Leary (2015-16, Otter Valley Union High School), Austin Robinson (2014-15, Middlebury Union High School), Tanner Contois (2013-14, South Burlington High School), Michael Dulac (2012-13, Hartford High School), Jake Stalcup (2011-12, Burr & Burton Academy), Christian McCormick (2010-11, Rice Memorial High School), and Max Librizzi (2009-10, Essex High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Stalcup 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).