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**MARTINSBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Isaac Brown of Martinsburg High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year. Brown is the third Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Martinsburg 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 Brown as West Virginia'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, 180-pound junior wide receiver and defensive back led the Bulldogs to a 14-0 record and the Group AAA state championship this past season. Brown caught 64 passes for 982 yards and 12 touchdowns. A three-year starter, Brown also scored twice on punt returns, and once each on a rushing attempt and a kickoff return. On defense, he recorded 23 tackles and two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown.

Brown has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally for an elementary school literacy-outreach program and as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church.

"Isaac Brown is an all-around athlete that impacts the game from all three phases: on offense, defense and special teams," said Derek Munson, head coach of Spring Mills High. "He's a dynamic player and a great young man."

Brown will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Football Players of the Year Cody Mitchell (2015-16, Point Pleasant High School), Kentre Grier (2014-15, South Charleston High School), Chazzy Thomas (2013-14, Morgantown High School), Ryan Switzer (2012-13 & 2011-12, George Washington High School), Keion Wright (2010-11, Capital High School), and Allan Wasonga (2009-10, Parkersburg High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brown 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).