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**HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IDAHO BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2017) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tommy Togiai of Highland High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Idaho Football Player of the Year. Togiai is the sixth Gatorade Idaho Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Highland 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 Togiai as Idaho'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, Togiai joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mitchell Trubisky (2012-13, Mentor High School, Ohio), Greg Olsen (2002-03, Wayne Hills High School, N.J.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06 Highland Park High School, Texas), Harrison Smith (2006-07 Knoxville Catholic High School, Tenn.), Latavius Murray (2007-08, Onondaga High School, N.Y.), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School, Mont.) and Leonard Fournette (2014-15 & 2012-13, St. Augustine High School, La.).

The 6-foot-3, 295-pound senior defensive lineman recorded 93 tackles and 11 sacks this past season, leading the Rams to a 10-1 record and the Class 5A state championship. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Togiai also forced two fumbles, grabbed an interception and batted down five passes. He is a two-time District Player of the Year and has been chosen to play in the 2018 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Togiai has volunteered locally as a youth football coach and as an aide in his school's counseling center. "In all the years I've coached, Tommy Togiai is the best I've seen," said Mitch Buck, head coach at Madison High. "He has great technique, size and ability and he plays from sideline to sideline. He splits double and triple teams. He's demonstrated abilities I've never seen before."

Togiai has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. He 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.

Togiai joins recent Gatorade Idaho Football Players of the Year Colson Yankoff (2016-17, Coeur d'Alene High School), Trey Bell (2015-16, Mountain View High School), Tristen Hoge (2014-15 & 2013-14, Highland High School), Joe Martarano (2012-13, Fruitland High School), Chad Chalich (2011-12, Coeur d'Alene High School), Cody McCarthy (2010-11, Bishop Kelly High School), and Taylor Kelly (2009-10, Eagle High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Togiai 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.