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**DECATUR CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Tyrone Tracy of Decatur Central High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year. Tracy is the first Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Decatur Central 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 Tracy as Indiana'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, Tracy 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-1, 185-pound senior running back rushed for 1,412 yards and 13 touchdowns this past season, leading the Hawks (10-2) to the Class 5A Section 13 championship game. Tracy also caught 54 passes for 1,132 yards and 16 scores. A three-time All-State selection, he is a four-year starter and concluded his prep football career with 6,924 yards of total offense and 72 touchdowns.

He has volunteered locally as a youth football coach and he has donated his time as a middle school student mentor. "Tyrone Tracy is one of the smoothest athletes I've seen in some time," said Scott Marsh, head coach of Roncalli High. "He has been terrific. You know he's getting the ball and it's still almost impossible to stop it."

Tracy has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Iowa in the fall of 2018.

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.

Tracy joins recent Gatorade Indiana Football Players of the Year Russ Yeast (2016-17, Center Grove High School), Brandon Peters (2015-16, Avon High School), Markell Jones (2014-15, Columbus East High School), Sammy Mireles (2013-14, Elwood Community High School), Sam Schrader (2012-13, Mishawaka High School), Gunner Kiel (2011-12, Columbus East High School), Matt McIntosh (2010-11, F.J. Reitz High School), and Kofi Hughes (2009-10, Cathedral High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tracy 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/>.