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**SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE BOYS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2017) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Owen Garrard of Scarborough High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year. Garrard is the first Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Scarborough 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 Garrard as Maine'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, Garrard 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, 230-pound senior running back and linebacker led the Red Storm to a 10-1 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Garrard rushed for 1,204 yards and 24 touchdowns and also caught two TD passes. On defense, he recorded 76 tackles, 10 for loss, two sacks and one interception. A First Team All-State running back as a junior, Garrard concluded his prep football career with 2,677 rushing yards and 48 touchdowns.

He has volunteered locally with the Team Kyle Foundation, offering support to children with illness and disability, and he has donated his time as a youth football coach. "Owen Garrard is a high-impact player on both sides of the ball and a huge emotional leader for his team," said Mike Fallon, head coach of Sanford High. "He is a powerful back with great speed and balance and an outstanding inside linebacker that can defend from the middle of the field all the way to the boundary."

Garrard has maintained a weighted A average 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.

Garrard joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Mike Laverriere (2016-17, Thornton Academy), Joe Esposito (2015-16, Portland High School), Joe Fitzpatrick (2014-15, Cheverus High School), Ben Lucas (2013-14, Cony High School), Andrew Libby (2012-13, Thornton Academy), Louis DiTomasso (2011-12, Wells High School), Peter Gwilym (2010-11, Cheverus High School), and Jack Mallis (2009-10, Windham High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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