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**LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Sal Frelick of Lexington High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year. Frelick is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lexington 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 Frelick as Massachusetts' best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in December, Frelick 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 5-foot-9, 175-pound senior quarterback and defensive back passed for 1,940 yards and 30 touchdowns this past season, leading the Minutemen (9-2) to the Division 1 North Region semifinals. Frelick also rushed for 1,779 yards and 20 TDs, averaging 13.2 yards per carry. Frelick accounted for 3,746 yards of total offense and 51 touchdowns. A two-time Boston Globe and Boston Herald All-Scholastic selection and a two-time Middlesex League Most Valuable Player pick, he concluded his prep football career with 10,059 yards of total offense and 135 touchdowns.

He has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and has donated his time as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "In my 28 years coaching, Sal Frelick is the most difficult player I've ever defended," said Bob O'Neil, defensive coordinator of Brockton High. "He's a once-in-a-generation type player. He has a combination of awareness, intelligence, speed and ball skills."

Frelick has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Boston College 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.

Frelick joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Football Players of the Year Bobby Maimaron (2016-17, Duxbury High School), Danny Dalton (2015-16, Marshfield High School), Joe Gaziano (2014-15, Xaverian Brothers High School), Neil O'Connor (2013-14, Leominster High School), Alex Moore (2012-13, St. John's Preparatory School), Jonathan DiBiaso (2011-12, Everett High School), Matt Costello (2010-11, Everett High School), and Nick LaSpada (2009-10, Billerica Memorial High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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