

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**DAMONTE RANCH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Cade McNamara of Damonte Ranch High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year. McNamara is the first Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Damonte Ranch 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 McNamara as Nevada'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, McNamara 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, 190-pound junior quarterback passed for 3,470 yards and 44 touchdowns this past season, leading the Mustangs (11-1) to the Division I Northern Region semifinals. McNamara had at least two TD passes in all 12 games and passed for four or more scores seven times. The 2016 Reno Gazette-Journal Northern Nevada Player of the Year, he concluded his junior year with 9,289 passing yards and 107 touchdowns in his prep football career.

A member of his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, McNamara has volunteered locally at a home day care facility and has also donated his time as a youth football coach. "Cade is the best high school quarterback I have ever seen in Northern Nevada," said Eric Borja, head coach of Spanish Springs High. "His field vision and ability to escape in the pocket is unparalleled."

McNamara has maintained a weighted 4.07 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 Notre Dame in the fall of 2019.

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.

McNamara joins recent Gatorade Nevada Football Players of the Year Tate Martell (2016-17 & 2014-15, Bishop Gorman High School), Biaggio Ali Walsh (2015-16, Bishop Gorman High School), Tyler Newman (2013-14, Liberty High School), Donnell Pumphrey (2012-13, Canyon Springs High School), Shaquille Powell (2011-12, Bishop Gorman High School), Keegan Buck (2010-11, Foothill High School), and Dezerick Reed (2009-10, Del Sol High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, McNamara 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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