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**HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Tyler Hamilton of Hartford High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year. Hamilton is the fifth Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hartford 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 Hamilton as Vermont'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, Hamilton 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-11, 185-pound senior quarterback and free safety passed for 1,026 yards and 14 touchdowns this past season, leading the Hurricanes (9-2) to the Division I state championship game. Hamilton also rushed for 954 yards and four scores, while on defense, he recorded 50 tackles and pulled down two interceptions. A two-time All-State selection as a safety, he concluded his prep football career with 2,232 rushing yards on offense and 16 interceptions on defense.

The president of the athletic leadership council at Hartford High, Hamilton has completed a service trip to Peru, where he worked at a school. He has also volunteered locally as a lifeguard. "Tyler is the definition of an old-school, hard-nosed player who plays with energy that can't be matched," said Chad Pacheco, head coach of Brattleboro High. "He can beat you with his power running and throwing on offense and he can also knock your block off on defense."

Hamilton has maintained a 3.69 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.

Hamilton joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Griff Stalcup (2016-17, Burr & Burton Academy), Carson Leary (2015-16, Otter Valley Union High School), Austin Robinson (2014-15, Middlebury Union High School), Tanner Contois (2013-14, South Burlington High School), Michael Dulac (2012-13, Hartford High School), Jake Stalcup (2011-12, Burr & Burton Academy), Christian McCormick (2010-11, Rice Memorial High School), and Max Librizzi (2009-10, Essex High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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