

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**SAGUARO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2013) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Luke Rubenzer of Saguario High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year. Rubenzer is the third Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Saguario 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 Rubenzer as Arizona's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Rubenzer joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 6-foot-0, 186-pound senior quarterback led the Sabercats to a 13-1 record and the Division III state title this past season. Rubenzer passed for 4,201 yards and a state-record 61 touchdowns, completing 227-of-308 attempts with just three interceptions. He also rushed for 1,235 yards and 10 touchdowns on 155 carries. Rubenzer threw for 558 yards and a state-record nine touchdowns in a 77-48 win over Desert Edge High in the state semifinals. He concluded his prep football career with state records for both passing yards (9,648) and passing touchdowns (130).

Rubenzer has maintained a weighted 4.21 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Red Suitcase Foundation, which provides school supplies for underprivileged children, and as a youth football coach.

"Luke Rubenzer is a true dual-threat quarterback," said Dave Aoyagi, head coach of Apache Junction High. "He makes plays with his arm and his legs. You have to game plan for his passing and running abilities. He executes his offense extremely well and is even more dangerous when the play breaks down because he can turn bad plays into good plays."

Rubenzer has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of California at Berkeley beginning in the fall of 2014.

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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Rubenzer joins recent Gatorade Arizona Football Players of the Year Jalen Brown (2012-2013, Mountain Pointe High School), Davonte Neal (2011-12 & 2010-11, Chaparral High School), Brett Hundley (2009-10, Chandler), Craig Roh (2008-09, Chaparral High School) and Tim Ruben (2007-08, Saguario) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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