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Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**FOLSOM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Jake Browning of Folsom High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade California Football Player of the Year. Browning is the first Gatorade California Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Folsom 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 Browning as California's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Browning 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-2, 195-pound junior quarterback led the Bulldogs to a 13-0 record entering the Division I CIF Sac-Joaquin Section state championship game against Oak Ridge, scheduled for Dec. 7. Browning threw for 5,093 yards and 69 touchdowns on 378-of-489 passing, throwing just 13 interceptions through 13 games. The 2012 CalHiSports.com Sophomore Player of the Year, he has eclipsed 5,000 passing yards in each of the last two seasons and has set a single-season state record with his 69 touchdown passes in 2013.

Browning has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered at his school as a peer tutor and locally as a youth football coach.

"Jake Browning is a truly gifted player," said Herbert Berry, head coach at Sheldon High. "You really have to pick your poison with him. If you pressure him, he will kill you with his short game, accuracy and decision-making. If you put people in coverage and give him any time, he will destroy you because he can see the whole field. He is truly a special player. In my 20 years of coaching varsity football, he is the most talented quarterback I have seen or coached against."

Browning will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Browning joins recent Gatorade California Football Players of the Year Su'a Cravens (2012-2013, Vista Murrieta High School), Zach Kline (2011-12, San Ramon Valley High School), Cody Kessler (2010-11, Centennial High School), Malcolm Jones (2009-10, Oaks Christian School), Ryan Kasdorf (2008-09, Notre Dame High School) and Matt Barkley (2007-08, Mater Dei) 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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