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**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Darius Wade of Middletown High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year. Wade is the second Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Middletown 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 Wade as Delaware's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Wade 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 senior quarterback passed for 2,662 yards and 35 touchdowns this past season, leading the Cavaliers (10-2) to the Division I championship game. Wade completed 145 of 220 passes, was intercepted just three times and also ran for seven touchdowns. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he started 48 varsity games at quarterback, won two state titles and was named state Offensive Player of the Year as a junior.

Wade has maintained a 3.28 GPA in the classroom. An elementary school mentor, he has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and has assisted with a middle school literacy program and a baseball league for students with disabilities.

"Wade looks like an NFL player with the way he throws it," said George Kosanovich, Concord High head coach. "He's tough, he takes hits, he can make every throw and he hits whoever is open. He can do everything well."

Wade has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at Boston College 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.

Wade joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year Chris Godwin (2012-2013, Middletown High School), Jamie Jarmon (2011-12, Indian River High School), Ryan Kilpatrick (2010-11, Salesianum School), C. J. Jones (2009-10, A.I. du Pont), Duron Harmon (2008-09, Caesar Rodney High School) and Brian Potts (2007-08, Caravel Academy) 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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