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**HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Tristen Hoge of Highland High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Idaho Football Player of the Year. Hoge is the fifth Gatorade Idaho Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Highland 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 Hoge as Idaho's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Hoge 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-5, 290-pound junior center recorded 97 pancake blocks this past season, leading the Rams (11-1) to the Class 5A state championship game. Hoge helped pave the way for a Highland offense that averaged 422 yards and 37.7 points per game. A First Team All-State selection, he was a MaxPreps Sophomore All-American and is rated as the nation's No. 27 recruit in the Class of 2015 by Scout.com.

Hoge has maintained a 4.10 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Shop With a Ram program, which provides Christmas gifts for underprivileged children.

"Hoge is a fantastic football player with an unlimited future," said Scott Berger, head coach at Skyline High. "He's an outstanding physical specimen with great technique and knowledge of the game."

Hoge 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.

Hoge joins recent Gatorade Idaho Football Players of the Year Joe Martarano (2012-2013, Fruitland High School), Chad Chalich (2011-12, Coeur d'Alene HS), Cody McCarthy (2010-11, Bishop Kelly High School), Taylor Kelly (2009-10, Eagle), Taysom Hill (2008-09, Highland High School) and Byron Hout (2007-08, Lake City) 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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