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**CONY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2013) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Ben Lucas of Cony High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year. Lucas is the first Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Cony 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 Lucas as Maine's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Lucas 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-4, 230-pound senior quarterback led the Rams to a 9-2 record and the Class B state championship this past season. Lucas passed for 3,357 yards and a state-record 41 touchdowns, completing 225-of-373 attempts, including 347 yards and three TDs in a 30-23 win over Kennebunk High in the state final. The Class B East Player of the Year, he concluded his prep football career with 7,575 passing yards and a state-record 89 touchdowns.

Lucas has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A member of the Cony High Spanish Club, he has volunteered locally as a youth football coach and with the Augusta Little League.

"Ben Lucas is as fine a quarterback as I've seen in the state's history," said Dan Cooper, head coach of Brunswick High. "His ability to stand tall in the pocket and throw the ball is simply amazing, almost indefensible. The confidence that he brings to that team makes them go."

Lucas 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 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.

Lucas joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Andrew Libby (2012-2013, Thornton Academy), Louis DiTomaso (2011-12, Wells High School), Peter Gwilym (2010-11, Cheverus High School), Jack Mallis (2009-10, Windham), Jack Heary (2008-09, Deering High School) and Justin Villacci (2007-08, Gorham) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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