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**SAINT JOSEPH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Mark Fossati of Saint Joseph Regional High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year. Fossati is the second Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Joseph Regional 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 Fossati as New Jersey's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Fossati 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 5-foot-11, 205-pound senior linebacker has led the Green Knights to a 9-1 record entering the Non-Public, Group III state championship game, scheduled for Dec. 7. The state's returning Defensive Player of the Year as named by The Star-Ledger, Fossati amassed 72 tackles, six pass breakups and two interceptions, anchoring a defense that allowed 14.5 points per contest through 10 games. As a running back, he rushed for 221 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries in addition to hauling in 15 receptions for 245 yards and five scores entering the championship game. Fossati also serves as Saint Joseph Regional's punter, placekicker and kickoff specialist. He recorded 154 tackles and forced three fumbles as a junior last season.

Also a baseball and basketball standout, Fossati has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, ACES Club of UNICO National and The Green Knights Ambassadors club, he has volunteered as part of Saint Joseph Regional High's monthly community-service initiatives.

"Mark Fossati is everywhere," said Nunzio Campanile, head coach at rival Bergen Catholic High. "He's a 20-tackle-a-game guy. He blocked a punt and intercepted a pass for a touchdown against us. He played fullback, linebacker, kicked field goals—he did everything. He's hot stuff."

Fossati 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.

Fossati joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Football Players of the Year Jonathan Germano (2012-2013, Bergen Catholic High School), Jamauri Bogan (2011-12, Union High School), Savon Huggins (2010-11, Saint Peter's Prep.), Tony Jones (2009-10, Don Bosco Preparatory School), Dillon Romain (2008-09, Don Bosco Preparatory High School) and J.B. Fitzgerald (2007-08, West Windsor-Plainsboro South) 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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