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**ERASMUS HALL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Curtis Samuel of Erasmus Hall as its 2013-14 Gatorade New York Football Player of the Year. Samuel is the first Gatorade New York Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Erasmus Hall.

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 Samuel as New York's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Samuel 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, 185-pound senior running back rushed for 1,461 yards and 17 touchdowns on 92 carries, an average of 15.9 yards per attempt, leading the Dutchmen to the Public Schools Athletic League semifinals this past season. Samuel also caught eight passes for 128 yards and two touchdowns, and scored two special teams TDs. A First Team All-State selection and the Daily News New York City Player of the Year as a junior, he has been chosen to play in the 2014 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Samuel has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth football program.

"Samuel is a big-time player, a game-changer," said Pete Gambardella, head coach at Curtis High. "He's just so fast, he can take a ball from any position and make a play out of nothing."

Samuel has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at Ohio State University 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.

Samuel joins recent Gatorade New York Football Players of the Year Tyler Rouse (2012-2013, C.W. Baker High School), Akeel Lynch (2011-12, St. Francis High School), Ishaq Williams (2010-11, Abraham Lincoln High School), Dan Scalo (2009-10, Monroe-Woodbury), Miguel Maysonet (2008-09, Riverheard High School) and Latavius Murray (2007-08, Onondaga) 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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