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**SHERWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Keegan Lawrence of Sherwood High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year. Lawrence is the first Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Sherwood 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 Lawrence as Oregon's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Lawrence 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, 185-pound senior running back rushed for 2,030 yards and 31 touchdowns on 117 carries this past season, leading the Bowmen (12-1) to the Class 5A state championship game. The 2013 Northwest Oregon Conference Co-Player of the Year, Lawrence rushed for at least 100 yards in 11 of 13 games this season and averaged 17.4 yards per carry.

Lawrence has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth football, baseball and basketball coach and on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"I feel that Keegan Lawrence is one of the best players Sherwood has ever had and in my opinion he is the top player in Class 5A in Oregon this year," said Eric Mahlum, head coach at Liberty High. "He wasn't the biggest, fastest or strongest player we faced this year, but I felt he got more out of his game than any player we faced. He played at a higher level than anyone we played this year."

Lawrence 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.

Lawrence joins recent Gatorade Oregon Football Players of the Year Jake LaCoste (2012-2013, West Albany High School), Steven Long (2011-12, Lake Oswego High School), Brett Smith (2010-11, West Salem High School), Jordan Johnson (2009-10, Sheldon), Jack Lomax (2008-09, Lake Oswego High School) and Cory McCaffrey (2007-08, Sisters) 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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