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**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Caden Quintanilla of Lincoln High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year. Quintanilla is the second Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Quintanilla as South Dakota's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Quintanilla 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-8, 180-pound senior running back led the Patriots to a perfect 11-0 record and the Class 11AAA state championship this past season. Quintanilla rushed for 1,893 yards and 29 touchdowns on 257 carries. A First Team All-State selection, he was named captain of the Argus Leader Elite 45 team. He rushed for a record 244 yards and four touchdowns in the state title game, earning the Joe Robbie Award.

Quintanilla has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth football camps and the Character Counts program, which stresses to elementary school students the importance of responsibility, respect and commitment.

"Quintanilla isn't the biggest guy, but he's tough," said Chad Stadem, head coach at Washington High. "He's very disciplined, follows his blocks and what separates him from everyone else is how quickly he accelerates."

Quintanilla 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.

Quintanilla joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Football Players of the Year Cole Langer (2012-2013, Dell Rapids High School), Alex Schultz (2011-12, Lincoln High School), Matt Hermanson (2010-11, Washington High School), Austin Sumner (2009-10, Brandon Valley), Dustin Lotzer (2008-09, Sisseton High School) and Riley Reiff (2007-08, Parkston) 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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