

**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**BINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Scott Nichols of Bingham High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year. Nichols is the third Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bingham 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 Nichols as Utah's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Nichols 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-10, 177-pound senior running back led the Miners (14-0) and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Named Region III Most Valuable Player, Nichols rushed for 1,675 yards and 20 touchdowns on 225 carries. He also hauled in 16 catches for 247 yards and three touchdowns. In a 38-13, title-clinching victory against Brighton, Nichols rushed for 184 yards and a touchdown on 31 carries in addition to snatching a 51-yard touchdown reception.

Also a track and field standout, Nichols has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered to benefit the local homeless community on behalf of a shelter service and multiple clothing drives.

"Scott Nichols is an exceptional football player," said Bingham offensive coordinator John Lambourne. "His work ethic is tremendous. He is a great example who inspires his teammates. I have coached 30 years of high school football. A number of his performances this season rank up there among the best that I have seen. Pound for pound, I believe that Scott is the hardest-running back that I have coached. His combination of balance, speed, strength and agility is outstanding."

Nichols 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.

Nichols joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Austin Kafentzis (2012-2013, Jordan High School), Chase Hansen (2011-12, Lone Peak High School), Alex Kuresa (2010-11, Mountain Crest High School), Harvey Langi (2009-10, Bingham), Ammon Olsen (2008-09, Alta High School) and Justin Sorensen (2007-08, Bingham) 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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