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## **SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Tanner Contois of South Burlington High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year. Contois is the second Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from South Burlington 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 Contois as Vermont's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Contois 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, 165-pound senior running back rushed for 2,361 yards and 22 touchdowns on 199 carries this past season, leading the Rebels (10-3) to the Division I state championship game. A 2012 First Team All-State selection, Contois also caught 21 passes for 563 yards and five touchdowns.

Contois has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple fundraiser walks to benefit ALS and breast cancer research and has served as a student-athlete representative on the Concussion Task Force in association with the Vermont Department of Education.

"Tanner Contois was by far the best running back that we played against all year," said Marty Richards, head coach at Mount Mansfield High. "There were numerous times when we had him bottled up and he would somehow scamper free for 50-plus yards. He has great balance and strong legs which constantly move."

Contois 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.

Contois joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Michael Dulac (2012-2013, Hartford High School), Jake Stalcup (2011-12, Burr & Burton Academy), Christian McCormick (2010-11, Rice Memorial High School), Max Librizzi (2009-10, Essex), Mick Wong (2008-09, Hartford High School) and James Durham (2007-08, Spaulding) 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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