

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Matt Ferris of Xavier High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Wisconsin Football Player of the Year. Ferris is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Xavier 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 Ferris as Wisconsin's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Ferris 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-5, 175-pound senior quarterback passed for 3,949 yards and 50 touchdowns, completing 258-of-418 passes while throwing 11 interceptions this past season, leading the Hawks (12-2) to the Division 3 semifinals. The 2013 Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Offensive Player of the Year, Ferris set a single-season state record for touchdown passes this fall, shattering the former mark of 40 set last year by 2012-13 Gatorade Wisconsin Football Player of the Year Tarek Yaeggi of Watertown.

Ferris has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society, he serves as an elected officer in his school's student government association and has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple youth sports camps.

"Matt Ferris is the most complete and uniquely talented quarterback I've had the opportunity to coach in the past 20 years," said Xavier High head coach Dave Hinkens. "He gives our team a chance to win every game and his play at the quarterback position was the best in Wisconsin this year. He has distinguished himself both on and off the field and epitomizes what it means to be a student-athlete at Xavier."

Ferris remain 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.

Ferris joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Football Players of the Year Tarek Yaeggi (2012-2013, Watertown High School), Vince Biegel (2011-12, Lincoln High School), Melvin Gordon (2010-11, Bradford High School), Eric Oertel (2009-10, Racine Lutheran), Ben Ericksen (2008-09, Greendale High School) and Mitch Sutton (2007-08, Stevens Point Area Senior) 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).

###