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**BEN EIELSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 4, 2014) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Anthony Griffith of Ben Eielson High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year. Griffith is the third Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Ben Eielson 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 Griffith as Alaska's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Griffith 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, 195-pound senior running back and defensive back led the Ravens to a 9-0 record and the Small School state championship this past season. Griffith rushed for 2,266 yards and 32 touchdowns on 158 attempts, averaging 14.3 yards per carry. Defensively, he recorded 80 tackles, including 42 solos and three interceptions. The 2014 Alaska School Activities Association Small School Offensive Player of the Year, he set a single-game state record on Sept. 6 when he rushed for 516 yards in a 52-34 win over Nikiski.

Griffith has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, a youth football camp counselor and as part of a fundraising campaign for Lions Clubs International.

"Anthony Griffith is a special player on and off the field," said Jeff Fraley, head coach at Homer High. "He is a great ambassador for Alaska football. He has a special combination of speed and power that doesn't come around often. He is also humble, kind and a great teammate."

Griffith 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.

Griffith joins recent Gatorade Alaska Football Players of the Year Leroy Elliott (2013-14, West Anchorage High School), Conor Feckley (2012-13, West Anchorage High School), A.J. Hull (2011-12, Kenai Central High School), Robbie Smithwick (2010-11, Soldotna High School), Justin Kauffman (2009-10, West Anchorage), Anthony Griglione (2008-09, Soldotna High School) and Bill Chimphalee (2007-08, Kenai Central) 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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