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**SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Gabe Green of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year. Green is the first Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Sacred Heart-Griffin 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 Green as Illinois's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Green 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-1, 205-pound senior quarterback led the Cyclones to a 14-0 record and a second consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. Green completed 14-of-21 pass attempts for 207 yards and one touchdown in addition to rushing for 86 yards on 21 carries in the 29-14, title-clinching victory against Montini. A two-time Class 5A First Team All-State selection as named by the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association, Green threw for 2,837 yards and 37 touchdowns against just one interception on 163-of-216 passing (75 percent) in 14 games. He also rushed for 851 yards and eight touchdowns on 91 carries.

Green has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a math tutor and youth football instructor, he has volunteered as part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Springfield's Saint Martin De Porres Center and his school's peer-leadership initiative. A participant in an elementary school literacy-outreach program, Green has also supported multiple charitable endeavors to benefit the homeless and Sacred Heart-Griffin's Mostaccioli Dinner fundraiser.

"He is a great leader, and he is a truly great competitor," said Mark Grounds, head coach of rival Jacksonville High. "However, I think the way he carries himself in spite of all the success he has had is what is most remarkable. He is humble, approachable and always very excited at the success of others. He makes the people around him better and raises their level of play."

Green has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi beginning in the fall of 2015.

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.

Green joins recent Gatorade Illinois Football Players of the Year Justin Jackson (2013-14 & 2012-13, Glenbard North High School), Blake Winkler (2011-12, Lincoln-Way East High School), Reilly O'Toole (2010-11, Wheaton Warrenville South High School), Christian Lombard (2009-10, William Fremd), Chris Watt (2008-09, Glenbard West High School) and Steve Filer (2007-08, Mount Carmel) 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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