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**CHEVERUS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Joe Fitzpatrick of Cheverus High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year. Fitzpatrick is the third Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Cheverus 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 Fitzpatrick as Maine's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Fitzpatrick 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, 214-pound senior running back and linebacker rushed for a Class A state record 2,071 yards and 27 touchdowns this past season, leading the Stags (8-2) to the Class A Eastern Region championship game. The 2014 Class A Offensive Player of the Year, Fitzpatrick cracked 250 rushing yards five times this fall and recorded eight multi-touchdown games. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he collected 16 tackles and a sack on defense and averaged 39.1 yards per punt.

Fitzpatrick has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A member of the Cheverus High Key Club, he has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen and an animal shelter in addition to donating his time helping to repair property damage for elderly neighbors. He has also participated in multiple community service initiatives as part of his church youth group.

"There are a lot of good backs in our league, but Joe Fitzpatrick is a man," said Mark Hackett, head coach of Bangor High. "In our game, when it got close, Joe took over. We couldn't tackle him. He ran around us, over us and through us."

Fitzpatrick 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.

Fitzpatrick joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Ben Lucas (2013-14, Cony High School), Andrew Libby (2012-13, Thornton Academy), Louis DiTomasso (2011-12, Wells High School), Peter Gwilym (2010-11, Cheverus High School), Jack Mallis (2009-10, Windham), Jack Heary (2008-09, Deering High School) and Justin Villacci (2007-08, Gorham) 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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