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**PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Ben DiNucci of Pine-Richland High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year. DiNucci is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Pine-Richland 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 DiNucci as Pennsylvania's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, DiNucci 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-3, 190-pound senior quarterback has led the Rams to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Class AAAA state semifinals, scheduled for Dec. 6. DiNucci threw for 3,713 yards and 38 touchdowns on 225-of-316 passing (71 percent) through 14 games. A returning First Team All-Northern Eight Conference selection, DiNucci also rushed for 156 yards and six touchdowns on 36 carries entering the state playoff round of four. With as many as two games to play, he trailed 2012-13 Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Player of the Year Matt Bodamer's Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association state record for passing yards in a single season by 238.

DiNucci has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the classroom. In addition to working for Tre Amici Ristorante, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen, a charitable road race, the March of Dimes Foundation, Light of Life Ministries and the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

"His accomplishments on the field this year are very impressive," said Rob Densmore, head coach of rival Butler Area High. "Being a teacher at Pine-Richland, I've also seen him mature as a student and as a leader. His work ethic and leadership skills may be more impressive than the stats on the field. I coached Ben as a sophomore, and his growth has been amazing. He is a leader on and off the field."

DiNucci will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2015, where he will play football.

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.

DiNucci joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Football Players of the Year Andrew Ford (2013-14, Cedar Cliff High School), Matt Bodamer (2012-13, Port Allegany High School), Noah Spence (2011-12, Bishop McDevitt High School), Brendan Nosovitch (2010-11, Allentown Central Catholic High School), Kyle Smith (2009-10, Lancaster Catholic), Zach Barket (2008-09, Schuylkill Haven Area High School) and Brendan Beal (2007-08, Liberty) 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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