

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Austin Kafentzis of Jordan High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year. Kafentzis is the second Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Jordan 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 Kafentzis as Utah's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Kafentzis 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, 195-pound senior quarterback threw for 3,862 yards and 40 touchdowns on 221-of-394 passing this past season, leading the Beetdiggers (8-4) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals. The state's 2012-13 Gatorade Football Player of the Year, Kafentzis also rushed for 1,842 yards and 25 touchdowns on 273 carries. A three-time returning Class 5A First Team All-State selection as named by The Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News, he owns career state records in carries (992), rushing yards (6,942), 100-yard rushing games (38), rushing touchdowns (103), pass attempts (1,453), pass completions (821), passing yards (13,079), touchdown passes (115), total offense (20,021 yards) and total touchdowns (218).

Also Utah's prep record-holder in the javelin throw, Kafentzis has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football and javelin instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church, as a peer tutor and as an elementary school mentor, stressing the importance of academic achievement.

"He's an exceptional young man with an unmatched work ethic," said Jordan head coach Eric Kjar. "He's very respectful and humble with everyone he comes in contact with. He's a student who strives for excellence in the classroom and is well liked by all of his teachers. Austin is blessed with many talents, but has put in a lot of time in order to improve these talents and become the type of player he is today."

Kafentzis has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Two-time winner Kafentzis joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Scott Nichols (2013-14, Bingham High School), Chase Hansen (2011-12, Lone Peak High School), Alex Kuresa (2010-11, Mountain Crest High School), Harvey Langi (2009-10, Bingham), Ammon Olsen (2008-09, Alta High School) and Justin Sorensen (2007-08, Bingham) 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.

###