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**CLAY-CHALKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 3, 2015) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Ty Pigrome of Clay-Chalkville High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Alabama Football Player of the Year. Pigrome is the first Gatorade Alabama Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Clay-Chalkville 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 Pigrome as Alabama's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Pigrome 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, 190-pound senior quarterback has led the Cougars to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Class 6A state championship game against Spanish Fort High, scheduled for Dec. 4. At the time of his selection, Pigrome had completed 161-of-242 passes for 2,866 yards and 41 touchdowns while rushing for 1,225 yards and 17 touchdowns on 138 carries. The 2014 Class 6A Back of the Year and AL.com Player of the Year, he accounted for 18 touchdowns in the Cougars' first four playoff games.

Pigrome has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Youth Leadership Development Council in Birmingham, he has also volunteered locally as a youth football coach.

"Ty Pigrome is what makes their offense go," said Matt Glover, head coach of Pinson Valley High. "He is the best player in the state of Alabama, and I don't believe second place is even close. They have the best offense that I have ever coached against, and he is the reason they are that good."

Pigrome 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.

Pigrome joins recent Gatorade Alabama Football Players of the Year Kerryon Johnson (2014-15, Madison Academy), Racean 'Roc' Thomas (2013-14, Oxford High School), Nick Mullens (2012-13, Spain Park High School), Jameis Winston (2011-12, Hueytown High School), Jamal Golden (2010-11, Wetumpka High School), Coty Blanchard (2009-10, Cherokee County High School), Clint Moseley (2008-09, Leroy High School) and Julio Jones (2007-08, Foley High School) 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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