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**PARADISE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 Daniel Bridge-Gadd of Paradise Valley High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year. Bridge-Gadd is the first Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Paradise Valley 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 Bridge-Gadd as Arizona's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Bridge-Gadd 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, 205-pound senior quarterback completed 251-of-374 passes for 4,268 yards and 47 touchdowns this past season, leading the Trojans (13-1) to the Division III state championship game. Bridge-Gadd also rushed for 627 yards and 17 touchdowns on 139 carries. He was responsible for 21 touchdowns in four postseason games and accounted for 454 yards of offense in Paradise Valley's 29-27 loss to Desert Edge High in the state final.

Bridge-Gadd has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with a fundraising campaign to benefit ALS research and has donated his time to an animal shelter and rehabilitation center.

"Daniel Bridge-Gadd is as good as I've seen, perhaps ever, up close and in person," said Jeff Scurran, head coach of Catalina Foothills High. "He is mobile and he is uncannily accurate."

Bridge-Gadd has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Washington in the fall of 2016.

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.

Bridge-Gadd joins recent Gatorade Arizona Football Players of the Year Christian Kirk (2014-15, Saguaro High School), Luke Rubenzer (2013-14, Saguaro High School), Jalen Brown (2012-13, Mountain Pointe High School), Davonte Neal (2011-12 & 2010-11, Chaparral High School), Brett Hundley (2009-10, Chandler High School), Craig Roh (2008-09, Chaparral High School) and Tim Ruben (2007-08, Saguaro 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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