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**HOPE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 McTelvin Agim of Hope High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arkansas Football Player of the Year. Agim is the first Gatorade Arkansas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hope 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 Agim as Arkansas's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Agim 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, 275-pound senior defensive end recorded 72.5 total tackles, 26 tackles for a loss and 14 sacks this past season, leading the Bobcats to a 9-3 record and the Class 5A quarterfinals. Agim also rushed for nine touchdowns and averaged 50.0 yards on seven kickoff returns. A two-time All-State selection, he is ranked as the nation's No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2016 by ESPN and has been chosen to play in the 2016 Under Armour All-America Game.

Agim has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered as a computer technician in his school and has served as a counselor at youth football camps.

"Agim can dominate a game on defense, but he can also run the ball, throw the ball, catch the ball," said Jared Dutton, head coach at Watson Chapel High. "He's got great speed and power and he plays hard. He's a special player."

Agim has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Agim joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Football Players of the Year Ty Storey (2014-15 & 2013-14, Charleston High School), Austin Allen (2012-13, Fayetteville High School), Fredi Knighten (2011-12, Pulaski Academy), Kiehl Frazier (2010-11, Shiloh Christian School), Michael Dyer (2009-10 & 2008-09, Little Rock Christian Academy) and De'Anthony Curtis (2007-08, Camden Fairview 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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