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**SALESIANUM SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Colby Reeder of Salesianum School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year. Reeder is the sixth Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Salesianum 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 Reeder as Delaware's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Reeder 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-4, 225-pound senior running back has led the Sals to a 10-1 record and a berth in the Division I state championship game against Smyrna, scheduled for Dec. 5. Reeder rushed for 1,916 yards and 31 touchdowns on 225 carries through 11 games, averaging 8.5 yards per carry. An All-State honoree and also a three-time All-Conference selection, he was named to USA TODAY's ALL-USA Delaware team as a junior.

Reeder has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth football program and has raised funds to benefit the Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens with Intellectual disABILITIES.

"Reeder is the best player in the state," said Dante Jones, head coach at Dover High. "He plays with so much heart and passion. [Our defense] punished him, but he would not stop."

Reeder 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.

Reeder joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year Taronn Selby (2014-15, St. Georges Technical High School), Darius Wade (2013-14, Middletown High School), Chris Godwin (2012-13, Middletown High School), Jamie Jarmon (2011-12, Indian River High School), Ryan Kilpatrick (2010-11, Salesianum School), C. J. Jones (2009-10, A.I. du Pont High School), Duron Harmon (2008-09, Caesar Rodney High School) and Brian Potts (2007-08, Caravel Academy) 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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