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**PELLA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Noah Clayberg of Pella High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year. Clayberg is the first Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Pella 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 Clayberg as Iowa's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Clayberg 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, 200-pound senior quarterback led the Dutch to a 14-0 record and a second consecutive Class 3A state championship this past season. Clayberg rushed for 205 yards and two touchdowns on 33 carries in addition to completing 9-of-15 passes for 121 yards and a touchdown in a 31-17, title-clinching victory against Norwalk, capturing Most Valuable Player honors in the state championship game for a second straight year. A returning Class 3A First Team All-State selection as named by the Iowa Newspaper Association, he threw for 1,695 yards and 21 touchdowns against just three interceptions in 2015 on 105-of-149 passing (70.5 percent). Clayberg added 1,846 rushing yards and 30 scores on 186 carries this season. Also a linebacker, he collected 44 tackles (9.5 for losses), two sacks and one interception in 14 games.

Also a basketball and soccer standout, Clayberg has maintained a 3.70 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of his church's youth group, the National Honor Society and his team's community service days.

"I've coached for 25 years, have had kids play at the Division I level, and one has a Super Bowl ring," said Eric Kellar, head coach of rival Knoxville. "Noah Clayberg is about as good of a player that I've seen. Pella is good, but there is no way they win a state title last year or this year without him. He is fast, agile, tough, explosive, and elusive. Every team he goes against will have him caught behind the line of scrimmage, but he gets away every time. There are game-changers, and he is at the top of the list."

Clayberg 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.

Clayberg joins recent Gatorade Iowa Football Players of the Year Ryan Boyle (2014-15 & 2013-14, Dowling Catholic High School), Jesse Ertz (2012-13, Mediapolis High School), Barkley Hill (2011-12, Cedar Falls High School), Connor Bravard (2010-11, Dowling Catholic High School), James Morris (2009-10 & 2008-09, Solon High School), and Dan Hoch (2007-08, Harlan Community 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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