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**MILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Christian Jegen of Mill Valley High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kansas Football Player of the Year. Jegen is the first Gatorade Kansas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Mill 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 Jegen as Kansas's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Jegen 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-2, 200-pound senior wide receiver, running back and defensive back led the Jaguars to a 12-1 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Jegen caught 65 passes for 1,274 yards and 16 touchdowns and also rushed for 824 yards and 14 scores on 113 carries. A semifinalist for the 2015 Simone Award, given to the top player in the Kansas City metro area, he finished the season with 2,538 all-purpose yards and 31 touchdowns. As a defensive back, he recorded 29 tackles and two interceptions.

Jegen has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Mill Valley High Student Leadership Team, he has volunteered locally with an elementary school literacy-outreach campaign and as a youth football coach.

"Christian Jegen is the most dynamic player I have seen in a long time," said Tom Radke, head coach of St. James High. "He is a playmaker and a difference-maker on both sides of the ball and on special teams as a returner."

Jegen 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.

Jegen joins recent Gatorade Kansas Football Players of the Year Denzel Goolsby (2014-15, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School), Joe Dineen (2013-14, Free State High School), Tanner Wood (2012-13, Conway Springs High School), Montell Cozart (2011-12, Bishop Miega High School), Bubba Starling (2010-11, Gardner Edgerton High School), Blake Bell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School) and Bryce Brown (2007-08, East 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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