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**PAINTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Kash Daniel of Paintsville High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year. Daniel is the first Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Paintsville 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 Daniel as Kentucky's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Daniel 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, 250-pound senior linebacker and quarterback recorded 88 solo tackles, 65 assisted tackles and four fumble recoveries this past season, leading the Tigers to a 13-1 record and the Class 1A semifinals. On offense, Daniel completed 73-of-123 passes for 1,319 yards and 15 touchdowns, adding 926 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns on 117 carries. An All-State selection as a junior, he has been chosen to play in the 2016 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Daniel has maintained a 3.02 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of flood recovery efforts and youth football programs.

"Daniel is big and strong and he's got good speed," said Chris McNamee, head coach at Pikeville High. "He creates a lot of problems for an offense ... and he gets the job done at quarterback too."

Daniel has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Daniel joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Football Players of the Year Elijah Sindelar (2014-15, Caldwell County High School), Damien Harris (2013-14, Madison Southern High School), James Quick (2012-13, Trinity High School), Patrick Towles (2011-12, Highlands High School), Lamar Dawson (2010-11, Boyle County High School), Antonio Andrews (2009-10, Fort Campbell High School), Rolandan "Deuce" Finch (2008-09, St. Xavier High School) and John Cole (2007-08, Somerset 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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