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**MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Danny Dalton of Marshfield High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year. Dalton is the third Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Marshfield 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 Dalton as Massachusetts's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Dalton 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-5, 244-pound senior tight end and linebacker caught 49 passes for 702 yards and 11 touchdowns this past season, leading the Rams (11-1) to the Division 2 state semifinals. A 2015 Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl game selection, Dalton also recorded 57 tackles, four sacks, three interceptions, returning one for a touchdown, and two fumble recoveries. He was a 2014 All-Scholastic honoree by the Boston Globe and Boston Herald and concluded his prep football career with 2,002 receiving yards.

Dalton has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has volunteered locally on a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research.

"Danny Dalton is a smooth, talented receiver," said Mike Sherman, head coach of Nauset High and former head coach of the Green Bay Packers. "He has great football character and instincts. I watched him run routes before the game and was impressed."

Dalton has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Penn State University 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.

Dalton joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Football Players of the Year Joe Gaziano (2014-15, Xaverian Brothers High School), Neil O'Connor (2013-14, Leominster High School), Alex Moore (2012-13, St. John's Preparatory School), Jonathan DiBiaso (2011-12, Everett High School), Matt Costello (2010-11, Everett High School), Nick LaSpada (2009-10, Billerica Memorial High School), Matt Grimard (2008-09, Dracut High School) and Matt Bellomo (2007-08, Holliston 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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