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**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Balue Chapman of Bozeman High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year. Chapman is the fourth Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Chapman as Montana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Chapman 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, 195-pound senior running back and defensive end rushed for 833 yards and 12 touchdowns on 132 carries this past season, leading the Hawks to a 12-1 record and the Class AA state championship. Chapman also recorded 70 tackles, 27 quarterback hurries, 10 tackles for a loss and 5.5 sacks. A three-time All-Conference selection, he was a Second Team All-State honoree as a junior.

Chapman has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has participated in a service-mission trip to Costa Rica and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth football programs.

"Chapman is a game-changer," said Kyle Samson, head coach at Flathead High. "He's a good running back and you really had to game-plan for him on the defensive side of the ball."

Chapman has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Montana 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.

Chapman joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Andrew Grinde (2014-15, C.M. Russell High School), Will Dissly (2013-14, Bozeman High School), Gunnar Brekke (2012-13, Capital High School), Caleb Kidder (2011-12, Capital High School), Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School), Matt Miller (2009-10, Capital High School), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School) and Casey McMillan (2007-08, Central Catholic 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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