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**GOFFSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Connor Bourque of Goffstown High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Hampshire Football Player of the Year. Bourque is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Goffstown 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 Bourque as New Hampshire's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Bourque 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-5, 150-pound senior running back led the Grizzlies to a 12-0 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Bourque rushed for 1,554 yards and 26 touchdowns on 158 carries and pulled down 17 receptions for 163 yards and two TDs. He also returned a pair of kickoffs for scores. A two-time First Team All-Conference selection, Bourque ran for 211 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-14 win over Exeter High in the state final.

Bourque has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a cook at the Boys & Girls Club of Manchester and has also donated his time as a youth football coach and middle school wrestling team assistant.

"Connor Bourque impacts the game in so many ways," said Eric Brown, head coach of Concord High. "As a kick/punt returner, you try not to kick to him. His performance on offense speaks for itself with his season stats."

Bourque 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.

Bourque joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Football Players of the Year Eric Fairweather (2014-15, Londonderry High School), Trevor Knight (2013-14, Nashua High School South), Tyler Grant (2012-13, Exeter High School), Jake Kiley (2011-12, New Hampton School), Max Jacques (2010-11 & 2009-10, Salem High School), David Zocco (2008-09, Nashua High School South) and Billy Ferriter (2007-08, Nashua High School South) 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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