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**ELDER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Tommy Kraemer of Elder High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year. Kraemer is the second Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Elder 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 Kraemer as Ohio's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Kraemer 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-6, 310-pound senior offensive tackle amassed 156 pancake blocks and anchored a team offense that racked up 5,064 yards of total offense and averaged 390.3 yards per game this past season. The Panthers (9-4) reached the Division I postseason quarterfinals. A First Team All-State selection, Kraemer has been selected to play in the 2016 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Kraemer has maintained an 89.3 average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as an elementary school guest role-model speaker and as a youth football and basketball coach.

"Tommy Kraemer is an outstanding player and an outstanding young man, as well," said Rodney Roberts, head coach at Centerville High head coach. "He is undoubtedly the best offensive lineman that we faced this year. He impacts a game from the offensive line and that is not something you see often in high school football."

Kraemer has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Kraemer joins recent Gatorade Ohio Football Players of the Year Joe Burrow (2014-15 & 2013-14, Athens High School), Mitch Trubisky (2012-13, Mentor High School), Maty Mauk (2011-12 & 2010-11, Kenton High School), Jordan Hicks (2009-10, Lakota West High School), Storm Klein (2008-09, Licking Valley High School) and Dan McCarthy (2007-08, Cardinal Mooney 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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