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**LOCUST GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Mason Fine of Locust Grove High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year. Fine is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Locust Grove 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 Fine as Oklahoma's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Fine 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 state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year threw for 4,232 yards and 53 touchdowns against seven interceptions on 251-of-384 passing (65.4 percent) this past season, leading the Pirates (12-1) to the Class 3A state quarterfinals. Also the returning Player of the Year as named by The Daily Oklahoman and Tulsa World, the 6-foot, 170-pound senior quarterback rushed for 631 yards and nine scores on 145 carries in 2015. After setting state single-season passing records for yards (5,006) and touchdowns (71) as a junior in 2014, Fine's 13,086 passing yards and 166 touchdown passes represent state career records.

Fine has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom, ranks No. 1 in his graduating class and has served as class president for the past three years. In addition to donating his time as a youth football instructor, he has also volunteered on behalf of the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"He plays the game as it should be played," said Darin Kapella, head coach at rival Westville. "Great leader, great poise, great attitude. He is a young man with excellent character and integrity—a very respectful young man who respects the game and his opponents."

Fine 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.

Two-time winner Fine joins Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year Cameron Batson (2013-14, Millwood High School), Stanvon Taylor (2012-13, East Central High School), Andrew Hearon (2011-12, Metro Christian Academy), David Glidden (2010-11, Mustang High School), Demarco Cobbs (2009-10, Central High School), Timothy Flanders (2008-09, Midwest City High School) and Mark Ginther (2007-08, Jenks 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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