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**WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Tim Tawa of West Linn High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year. Tawa is the first Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year to be chosen from West Linn 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 Tawa as Oregon's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Tawa 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-11, 175-pound junior quarterback has led the Lions to a 12-1 record and a berth in the Class 6A championship game against Jesuit, scheduled for Dec. 5. The state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year, Tawa completed 241-of-349 pass attempts for 4,171 yards and 50 touchdowns against just two interceptions through 13 games. He is a First Team All-State selection in both baseball and football and has eclipsed the state's previous single-season record of 4,047 passing yards, set in 1997.

Tawa has maintained a 4.03 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally as an elementary school guest role-model speaker, a youth football and baseball coach and has raised funds to benefit cystic fibrosis research.

"Tim Tawa is an excellent quarterback with great skills and an understanding of the game that makes him special," said Steve Oury, head coach at Lake Oswego High. "He does everything for his team and he does it against every opponent no matter the competition or the weather. He has complete command of the game and his leadership skills are projected loud and clear with the way his teammates respond to him. He is a complete player who excels and takes full advantage of his God-given abilities."

Tawa has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Stanford University in the fall of 2017.

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 Tawa joins Gatorade Oregon Football Players of the Year Keegan Lawrence (2013-14, Sherwood High School), Jake LaCoste (2012-13, West Albany High School), Steven Long (2011-12, Lake Oswego High School), Brett Smith (2010-11, West Salem High School), Jordan Johnson (2009-10, Sheldon High School), Jack Lomax (2008-09, Lake Oswego High School) and Cory McCaffrey (2007-08, Sisters 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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