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**EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Nick Andreozzi of East Greenwich High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year. Andreozzi is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year to be chosen from East Greenwich 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 Andreozzi as Rhode Island's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Andreozzi 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-7, 145-pound senior quarterback has led the Avengers to an 11-1 record and a berth in the Division III state championship game against Classical High, scheduled for Dec. 6. At the time of his selection, Andreozzi had completed 137-of-199 passes for 2,096 yards and 35 touchdowns against just three interceptions. The 2014 First Team All-Division III selection also rushed for 322 yards and five scores on 47 carries through the state semifinals and passed for multiple touchdowns in 11 of the Avengers' 12 games.

Andreozzi has maintained a B average in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and lacrosse coach.

"Nick Andreozzi is the best quarterback we saw all season," said Mike Gibbons, head coach of Hope High. "He's not a big kid but is in full control of his offense and makes plays within his scheme as well as outside of the script. A very accurate passer and quick on his feet, Nick makes plays as they come to him."

Andreozzi 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.

Andreozzi joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Football Players of the Year Alfred Dorbor (2014-15, St. Raphael Academy), Matt Sewall (2013-14, Portsmouth High School), Anthony Francis (2012-13, La Salle Academy), Josh Morris (2011-12, La Salle Academy), Ben Willett (2010-11, Portsmouth High School), Mike Read (2009-10, Barrington High School), Dave D'Errico (2008-09, North Kingstown High School) and Bobby Bentsen (2007-08, Warwick Veterans 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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