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NAVASOTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Tren'Davian Dickson of Navasota High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year. Dickson is the first Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Navasota 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 Dickson as Texas's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Dickson 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.), Anguan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 6-foot-1, 170-pound senior wide receiver hauled in 82 receptions for 1,525 yards and 24 touchdowns this past season, leading the Rattlers (12-1) to the regional round of the Class 4A, Division I state playoffs. Also a defensive back, Dickson returned two of his three interceptions for touchdowns. The U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection added a punt return for a score to finish his senior season with 27 total touchdowns on just 92 touches. The returning National Junior of the Year as named by MaxPreps, Dickson's 39 touchdown catches during a state title-winning campaign as a junior in 2014 set a single-season national prep record. His 76 career touchdown receptions also set a state record.

Also a basketball and track standout, Dickson has maintained a 3.04 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered on behalf of the Special Olympics and his school's Life Skills special education program.

"He is a leader—a fine young man who will accomplish whatever he sets out to accomplish," said Navasota head coach Lee Fedora. "On the field of play, in the classroom, at the next level of his education, both on and off the field, Tren'Davian will be a success because of his work ethic and commitment to his team."

Dickson has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Baylor University in the fall of 2016.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Dickson joins recent Gatorade Texas Football Players of the Year Kyler Murray (2014-15 & 2013-14, Allen High School), Kenny Hill (2012-13, Southlake Carroll High School), Johnathan Gray (2011-12 & 2010-11, Aledo High School), Scotty Young (2009-10, Billy Ryan High School), Garrett Gilbert (2008-09, Lake Travis High School) and Riley Dodge (2007-08, Southlake Carroll 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.