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**O. PERRY WALKER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 2, 2010) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Anthony Johnson of O. Perry Walker High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from O. Perry Walker 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 Johnson as Louisiana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Johnson 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, 286-pound senior defensive tackle has led the Chargers to a 9-3 record and a berth in the Class 4A semifinals against Franklinton High, scheduled for Dec. 3. Johnson had recorded 124 tackles, including 36 for a loss, and 15 sacks, giving him a state-record 65 sacks for his prep career. The 2009 Class 4A State Defensive Most Valuable Player, Johnson had recovered three fumbles, returning one for a touchdown, and had also returned an interception for a touchdown.

Johnson has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the O. Perry Walker High choir and his church choir, he has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"For a young man his size, Anthony Johnson has the ability to move like a person much smaller, and that makes him that much more dangerous," said Jabar Jukule, head coach of rival Karr High. "How do you block him? With as many players as you can. He commands a double-team, at least. I don't think there's anyone who can block him one on one."

Johnson has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Louisiana State University beginning in the fall of 2011.

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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Football Players of the Year Kenny Hilliard (2009-10, Patterson), Dez Duron (2008-09, Evangel Christian Academy) and Jordan Jefferson (2007-08, Destrehan) 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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