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**GILMAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Darius Jennings of Gilman School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year. Jennings is the third Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Gilman 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 Jennings as Maryland's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Jennings 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, 185-pound senior quarterback rushed for 1,592 yards and 19 touchdowns on 165 carries this past season, leading the Greyhounds (7-2) to a share of the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference crown. A First Team All-State selection in 2009, Jennings also completed 29 of 50 passes for 425 yards and three touchdowns. He has been selected to play in the 2011 Under Armour All-American Game.

Jennings has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a mentor in his school and has served in the student government.

"I'm amazed at what Jennings is able to do," said Bill McGregor, head coach of DeMatha High. "We've played him two years in a row and 'held' him to about 550 yards rushing. There's nothing you can do to stop him, and we worked very hard to try and find a way."

Jennings 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 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.

Jennings joins recent Gatorade Maryland Football Players of the Year Zach Zwinak (2009-10, Linganore) and two-time winner Jelani Jenkins (2008-09 & 2007-08, Our Lady of Good Counsel) 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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