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**NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Justin Worley of Northwestern High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year. Worley is the third Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Northwestern 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 Worley as South Carolina's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Worley 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-5, 195-pound senior quarterback has led the Trojans to a 14-0 record and the Class 4A-II state final against Greenwood High, scheduled for Dec. 3. At the time of his selection, Worley had passed for 5,052 yards and 59 touchdowns, completing 403-of-548 attempts while throwing just 11 interceptions. A 2010 Shrine Bowl selection and a 2010 South Carolina Mr. Football finalist, Worley became the state's all-time single-season leader in touchdown passes this season, breaking the mark set by 2005-06 and 2006-07 Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year Willy Korn (53) in 2005. He has thrown more than 50 touchdowns in a season in two of the last three years and has averaged a score once every 9.6 times he has touched the ball in 2010.

Worley has maintained a 4.07 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a guest speaker on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and participated in food and clothing drives for area homeless.

"Justin Worley is an outstanding quarterback," said South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Executive Director Shell Dula. "He's in the top one percent of the players they've ever had there, and that's saying something."

Worley has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Tennessee 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.

Worley joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Football Players of the Year Marcus Lattimore (2009-10 & 2008-09, Byrnes) and Daquan Bowers (2007-08, Bamberg-Ehrhardt) 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.

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