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**HUEYTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 1, 2011) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Jameis Winston of Hueytown High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Alabama Football Player of the Year. Winston is the first Gatorade Alabama Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hueytown 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 Winston as Alabama's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Winston 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-4, 205-pound senior quarterback passed for 2,424 yards and 28 touchdowns, completing 163-of-234 attempts while throwing two interceptions this past season, leading the Golden Gophers (13-1) to the Class 5A state semifinals. Winston also rushed for 1,063 yards and 15 touchdowns on 144 carries. The co-MVP of the ESPNHS Elite 11 Quarterback Camp, he is a 2012 Under Armour All-American Game selection and the No. 11 rated recruit in the Class of 2012 by ESPNU.

Winston has maintained an A average in the classroom. A math tutor at Hueytown, he has volunteered locally as a motivational speaker, a youth baseball coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Jameis Winston ran with an attitude," said David Powell, head coach at rival McAdory High. "He was tough to tackle. He's a playmaker, bottom line. He can turn something bad into something good. In crunch time, when the game was on the line, the ball was going to be in his hands."

Winston has verbally committed to play football and baseball on an athletic scholarship at Florida State University beginning in the fall of 2012.

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 ESPNHS 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.

Winston joins recent Gatorade Alabama Football Players of the Year Jamal Golden (2010-11, Wetumpka High School) Coty Blanchard (2009-10, Cherokee County), Clint Moseley (2008-09, Leroy High School) and Julio Jones (2007-08, Foley) 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.