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**GILMAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Cyrus Jones of Gilman School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year. Jones is the fourth 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 Jones 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, Jones 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 5-foot-10, 190-pound senior running back and cornerback led the Greyhounds to a 9-1 record and the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference championship this past season. Jones rushed for 948 yards and 13 TDs on 109 carries and caught 39 passes for 635 yards and six touchdowns. He also intercepted five passes on defense and scored four touchdowns on special teams. A First Team All-State selection, Jones is ranked the No. 34 senior recruit in the country by ESPN, and has been selected to play in the 2012 Under Armour All-American Game.

Jones has maintained a B average in the classroom. A senior leader in his school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities and a program that serves hot meals to the needy.

"Cyrus Jones is one of the most dynamic prospects in this class when it comes to versatility," said ESPN National Recruiting Director Tom Luginbill. "He can play just about any skill position on the field and he has tremendous cover corner traits. He's quick, can transition, has ball skills and is extremely competitive."

Jones 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 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Maryland Football Players of the Year Darius Jennings (2010-11, Gilman School) Zach Zwinak (2009-10, Linganore), Jelani Jenkins (2008-09, Our Lady of Good Counsel) and Jelani Jenkins (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.

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