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**HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Dorial Green-Beckham of Hillcrest High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year. Green-Beckham is the first Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Hillcrest 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 Green-Beckham as Missouri's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Green-Beckham 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 state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year, the 6-foot-6, 225-pound senior wide receiver hauled in 119 receptions for a state-record 2,233 yards and 24 touchdowns this past season, leading the Hornets (11-2) to the Class 4 state quarterfinals. The state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year, Green-Beckham concluded his career with a national prep record 6,356 career receiving yards. Also the 2009-10 Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, he set state records in single-game receiving yards (354), single-season receiving yards (2,233) and career touchdown catches (72). Green's single-season receiving yards mark ranks fourth in national prep history.

Also a basketball and track standout, Green has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and elementary school motivational speaker and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"This was my first year in the conference and thankfully the last time that I will have to coach against Dorial Green-Beckham," said Chris Shields, head coach of rival Joplin High. "He is an outstanding player—the best high school wide receiver that I have ever personally seen—and he displayed nothing but good sportsmanship against us when we hosted his team."

Green-Beckham 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.

Green-Beckham joins recent Gatorade Missouri Football Players of the Year Dorial Darrian Miller (2009-10, Blue Springs), T.J. Moe (2008-09, Fort Zumwalt West High School) and Nathan Scheelhaase (2007-08, Rockhurst) 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.