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**UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 1, 2011) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Jamauri Bogan of Union High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year. Bogan is the second Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Union 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 Bogan as New Jersey's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Bogan 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-9, 165-pound sophomore running back rushed for 2,260 yards and 27 touchdowns on 258 carries this past season, leading the Farmers (7-3) to the Group IV, North II state quarterfinals. A preseason Honorable Mention All-State selection as named by ESPNHS, Bogan eclipsed 200 rushing yards in seven of his team's 10 games. A First Team All-Union County selection, he rushed for 1,100 yards and 17 touchdowns as a freshman in 2010.

Bogan has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football instructor, he has volunteered extensively on behalf of his church.

"Jamauri Bogan is one of the most explosive running backs that I have seen in my 23 years of coaching," said Mark Crisafi, head coach of rival Watchung Hills High. "He can change a game in an instant or grind you up and give you a slow death."

Bogan will begin his junior year of high school next fall.

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.

Bogan joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Football Players of the Year Savon Huggins (2010-11, Saint Peter's Prep.) Tony Jones (2009-10, Don Bosco Preparatory School), Dillon Romain (2008-09, Don Bosco Preparatory High School) and J.B. Fitzgerald (2007-08, West Windsor-Plainsboro South) 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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