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**GAFFNEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Quinshad Davis of Gaffney High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year. Davis is the first Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Gaffney 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 Davis 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, Davis 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, 180-pound senior wide receiver has led the Indians to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A-I state final against Byrnes High, scheduled for Dec. 3. Davis caught 100 passes for 1,825 yards and 24 touchdowns through 14 games. A two-time First Team All-State selection and a 2011 Shrine Bowl invitee, he has amassed more than 100 receiving yards in 11 games so far this season.

Davis has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner of his church community, he is a member of his school's peer leadership organization and has volunteered locally as part of food and clothing drives for the needy and as an elementary school motivational guest speaker.

"Quinshad Davis's skill level and impact on a football game are rarely matched," said John Devine, head coach of rival Clover High. "He has the speed to run by defenders and the route-running skills to split the defense. The amount of preparation he puts in is evident in his play and the respect he has for his opponents is displayed on the field."

Davis remains undecided upon a college 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.

Davis joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Football Players of the Year Justin Worley (2010-11, Northwestern High School) 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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