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**CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 15, 2012) — 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 Jake Files of Clinton High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Files is the second Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Clinton 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 Files as Mississippi's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Files joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 6-foot-3, 180-pound senior goalkeeper led the Arrows to a 23-2-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Files allowed 12 goals and recorded 15 shutouts, including back-to-back whitewashes in the state final four. The 2012 Clarion Ledger Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 20 shutouts.

Files has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and scored a perfect 36 on his ACT. An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, he has volunteered locally at the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital and as a researcher in the University of Mississippi Medical Center's biochemistry department.

"Jake Files is a tremendous keeper," said Jesse Lang, head coach of rival Oak Grove High. "When Clinton had no offense, he kept them in the game."

Files has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Spring Hill College in Alabama this 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.

Files joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Players of the Year Derrick "Ducky" Troutman (2010-11, Ocean Springs High School), Jarred Arde, (2009-10, Gulfport), Dillon Walker (2008-09 Pearl High School), Chris Williams (2007-08, Pearl), and Barry Prather (2006-2007, Clinton) 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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