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**ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (November 29, 2012) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Leonard Fournette of St. Augustine High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year. Fournette is the second Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Augustine 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 Fournette as Louisiana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Fournette 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-1, 232-pound junior running back rushed for 2,155 yards and 34 touchdowns on 203 carries, averaging 10.6 yards per carry this past season, leading the Purple Knights (9-4) to the Class 4A state quarterfinals. Fournette also caught 25 passes for 457 yards and four touchdowns and returned two kickoffs for scores. A two-time New Orleans Times-Picayune Player of the Week, he is the No. 6-rated recruit in the Class of 2013 by Scout.com.

Fournette has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Leonard Fournette is truly a one-man wrecking crew," said Barry Wilson, head coach of Holy Cross High. "He is the best football player in the state of Louisiana, bar none. He is big, fast and has tremendous balance when he runs the ball. I know I have not seen a better football player in the New Orleans area during my time here at Holy Cross."

Fournette will begin his senior 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with USA TODAY High School Sports, 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.

Fournette joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Football Players of the Year Landon Collins (2011-12, Dutchtown High School), Anthony Johnson (2010-11, O. Perry Walker High School), Kenny Hilliard (2009-10, Patterson), Dez Duron (2008-09, Evangel Christian Academy) and Jordan Jefferson (2007-08, Destrehan) 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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