

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**BLUE SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSOURI FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (November 29, 2012) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Dalvin Warmack of Blue Springs High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year. Warmack is the sixth Gatorade Missouri Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Springs 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 Warmack 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, Warmack 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, 177-pound junior running back led the Wildcats (13-1) to the Class 6 state championship this season. A returning Second Team All-Conference selection, Warmack rushed for 2,279 yards and 40 touchdowns on 255 carries. He also hauled in 19 receptions for 236 yards and five scores. In five Class 6 state playoff games, Warmack ran for 728 yards and 12 touchdowns on 91 carries. He concluded his season with 181 yards and two scores on 23 carries in a 42-3 victory against Francis Howell High in the state title game.

Also a basketball and track standout, Warmack has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth football instructor.

"Dalvin Warmack is a great character kid and a great athlete," said Ty Kohl, head coach of rival Lee's Summit North High. "The only problem I have is that he's only a junior, and we have to face him again next season. On a serious note, he's an exceptional player."

Warmack 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.

Warmack joins recent Gatorade Missouri Football Players of the Year Dorial Green-Beckham (2011-12, 2010-11, Hillcrest High School), 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

###