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**DAVIDSON DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH CAROLINA 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 Will Grier of Davidson Day School as its 2012-13 Gatorade North Carolina Football Player of the Year. Grier is the first Gatorade North Carolina Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Davidson Day 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 Grier as North Carolina's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Grier 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-3, 185-pound junior quarterback led the Patriots (11-2) to the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association Division II state championship this season. A returning MaxPreps All-American, Grier threw for state-record totals of 5,785 yards and 69 touchdowns against just six interceptions, completing 324-of-414 passes (78 percent). He also rushed for 813 yards and eight touchdowns on 92 carries. In three NCISAA Division II state playoff games, Grier completed 83-of-103 attempts for 1,749 yards and 21 TDs in addition to rushing for 111 yards and three scores on 18 carries. His 834 yards and 10 touchdowns through the air in a 104-80 victory against Harrells Christian Academy in the state semifinals set unofficial national records.

Grier has maintained a 3.70 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football and basketball instructor, he has volunteered extensively on behalf of his church and at an area retirement facility.

"I think he is the best high school quarterback I've ever faced as a coach," said Larry McNulty, head coach of rival Charlotte Latin High since 1985. "He's going to go to pretty much any college he wants. He's that talented. He's a very, very, very good high school player and a quality young man. That whole program revolves around Will Grier."

Grier 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.

Grier joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Football Players of the Year Keith Marshall (2011-12, Millbrook High School), Stephone Anthony (2010-11, Anson High School), Christian LeMay (2009-10, Butler), Xavier Nixon (2008-09, Jack Britt High School) and Braden Hanson (2007-08, Charlotte Latin School) 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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