

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Stanvon Taylor of East Central High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year. Taylor is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from East Central 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 Taylor as Oklahoma's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Taylor 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-11, 175-pound senior athlete led the Cardinals to a 9-4 record this season entering the Class 5A state championship game, scheduled for December 1. A Preseason First Team All-State selection as named by MaxPreps, Taylor hauled in 61 catches for 1,035 yards and 15 touchdowns through 13 games. He has also rushed for 300 yards and two scores on 28 carries in addition to completing 3-of-6 passes for 134 yards and two scores. Scout's No. 11-ranked cornerback in the Class of 2013, Taylor has recorded 33 tackles and four interceptions, anchoring the secondary of a defense that allows 14.9 points per game.

Taylor has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. In addition to working at a local nursing and rehabilitation center, he has volunteered as part of his school's peer-mentoring program.

"No doubt this young man is a standout player," said Dan Phillips, head coach of rival Tulsa Central High. "He has great character and is much deserving of this award. I have watched him play in seven games this year in person and on video. He is a great football player as well as a leader on the East Central football team."

Taylor has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oklahoma beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

Taylor joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year Andrew Hearon (2011-12, Metro Christian Academy), David Glidden (2010-11, Mustang High School), Demarco Cobbs (2009-10, Central), Timothy Flanders (2008-09, Midwest City High School) and Mark Ginther (2007-08, Jenks) 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).

###