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**H.D. WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2013) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced D'Andre Payne of H.D. Woodson High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year. Payne is the sixth Gatorade District of Columbia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from H.D. Woodson 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 Payne as District of Columbia's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Payne 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-10, 175-pound senior defensive back and wide receiver has led the Warriors to a 10-3 record and a berth in the District of Columbia State Athletic Association final against Friendship Collegiate, scheduled for Dec. 7. Payne recorded 70 tackles and four interceptions through 13 games. He also caught 13 passes for 313 yards and five touchdowns, and rushed 24 times for 356 yards and four TDs. MVP of the 44th annual Turkey Bowl, Payne is a First Team All-Conference selection and was named to the Washington Post All-Met First Team.

Payne has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth track program.

"Payne is a very, very solid defensive player who can also make explosive plays on offense," said Cato June, head coach at Anacostia High. "He's got good feet and top-end speed, and he has great instincts."

Payne has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Tennessee beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Payne joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Football Players of the Year Yannick Ngakoue (2012-2013, Friendship Collegiate Academy), Albert Reid (2011-12, Friendship Collegiate Academy), Kevin Hogan (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Ricardo Young (2009-10, H.D. Woodson), Darin Drakeford (2008-09, Roosevelt High School) and Antwon Bailey (2007-08, St. John's College) 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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