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**WILKINSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Devin Voorhies of Wilkinson County High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year. Voorhies is the first Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Wilkinson County 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 Voorhies as Mississippi's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Voorhies 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-2, 197-pound senior quarterback and safety threw for 2,374 yards and 25 touchdowns on 138-of-221 passing this past season and leading the Wildcats (11-4) to the Class 3A state semifinals. Wilkinson also rushed for 2,027 yards and 15 touchdowns on 187 carries, averaging 10.8 yards per rush. On defense, he recorded 67 tackles, two sacks, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and one forced fumble. He returned both an interception and a fumble for touchdowns.

Voorhies has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of his school's BETA Club and National Technical Honor Society, he has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Devin Voorhies is a tremendous athlete and he's grown to be a physical specimen," said Lance Reed, head coach of Natchez High. "His athleticism sets him apart. Our guys were flying all over the field trying to tackle that kid. I wondered what our problem was. But then I saw other games and teams were having the same problem."

Voorhies has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at LSU 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.

Voorhies joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Football Players of the Year Ashton Shumpert (2012-2013, Itawamba Agricultural High School), Anthony Alford (2011-12 & 2010-11, Petal High School), Dylan Favre (2009-10, St. Stanislaus College), Tyler Russell (2008-09, Meridian High School) and Charles Mitchell (2007-08, Clarksdale) 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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