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**DAVIDSON DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH CAROLINA 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 Will Grier of Davidson Day School as its 2013-14 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Grier led the Patriots (12-1) to a third consecutive North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association state championship this past season. The 6-foot-3, 195-pound senior quarterback threw for 4,989 yards and 77 touchdowns on 314-of-446 passing (70.4 percent). A U.S. Army Player of the Year finalist, he also rushed for 1,252 yards and 13 touchdowns on 115 carries. In a 69-28, NCISAA Division II title-clinching win over Harrells Christian Academy, Grier completed 32 of 42 attempts for 599 yards and seven touchdowns in addition to rushing for 57 yards and a touchdown on seven carries. In his three-year career, he threw for 14,559 yards and 195 touchdowns on 888-of-1,258 passing (70.5 percent) while rushing for 2,990 yards and 32 touchdowns on 307 carries.

Grier has maintained a 3.40 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Spanish Club, he has also donated his time as a youth football instructor and volunteered on behalf of a youth literacy-outreach program as well as the Pop Warner Challenger Flag Football League.

"Let me make one blanket statement that will cover everything: In chatting with all the coaches around here, we all feel he's the best high school quarterback any one of us has ever gone against—period—and I've been doing this since 1970," said Larry McNulty, head coach at rival Charlotte Latin School. "If you try to stop the passing game, he'll pull it down and run right past you, over you or through you. And if you defend the run, he'll throw around you and over you."

Grier has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Two-time winner Grier joins 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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