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**WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Todd Kelly Jr. of Webb School of Knoxville as its 2013-14 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year. Kelly Jr. is the first Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Webb School of Knoxville.

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 Kelly Jr. as Tennessee's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Kelly Jr. 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-1, 195-pound senior safety and running back led the Spartans to a 9-2 record entering the Div. II-A state final against St. George's, scheduled for Dec. 5. Kelly rushed for 1,014 yards and 20 touchdowns on 130 carries, and caught 13 passes for 225 yards and two scores through 11 games. He also recorded 59 tackles, two interceptions and five pass breakups on defense. A two-time All-State selection, Kelly was the Knoxville PrepXtra Defensive Player of the Year as a junior and earned the Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Class II-A Back award each of the last two seasons. He has been invited to play in the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Kelly Jr. has maintained a 4.01 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and a middle school student-mentoring program.

"Kelly is as talented a football player as you'll ever see at the high school level," said Matt Lowe, head coach at King's Academy. "He's scary with the ball in his hands, and on defense he understands every coverage and really breaks on the football. He doesn't have any weaknesses."

Kelly 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.

Kelly joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year Mark Dodson (2012-2013, Whitehaven High School), Patton Robinette (2011-12, Maryville High School), I'Tavius Mathers (2010-11, Blackman High School), JaRon Toney (2009-10, Alcoa), Marsalis Teague (2008-09, Henry County High School) and Curt Phillips (2007-08, Sullivan South) 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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