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**WARREN EASTON CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 4, 2014) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Deshawn Capers-Smith of Warren Easton Charter High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year. Capers-Smith is the first Gatorade Louisiana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Warren Easton Charter 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 Capers-Smith as Louisiana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Capers-Smith 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, 175-pound senior quarterback has led the Eagles to an 11-2 record and a berth in the Class 4A state semifinals against Plaquemine High, scheduled for Dec. 5. At the time of his selection, Capers-Smith had completed 202-of-323 passes (64 percent) for 3,379 yards and 47 touchdowns against just one interception. He also rushed for 1,138 yards and 21 touchdowns on 174 carries through 13 games.

Capers-Smith has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Warren Easton Recycling Program and has donated his time to the Just Keep Livin' Foundation, which empowers high school students to live healthy, active lives.

"Deshawn is a playmaker and a superior athlete which shows on the field weekly," said Kevin Fox, head coach of West Jefferson High. "His combination of speed and agility makes him tough to tackle in the open field and he has a ton of natural ability."

Capers-Smith has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Texas A&M University in the fall of 2015.

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.

Capers-Smith joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Football Players of the Year Leonard Fournette (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Augustine High School), Landon Collins (2011-12, Dutchtown High School), Anthony Johnson (2010-11, O. Perry Walker High School), Kenny Hilliard (2009-10, Patterson), Dez Duron (2008-09, Evangel Christian Academy) and Jordan Jefferson (2007-08, Destrehan) 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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