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**DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 J.J. Arcega-Whiteside of Dorman High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year. Arcega-Whiteside is the first Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Dorman 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 Arcega-Whiteside as South Carolina's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Arcega-Whiteside 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-3, 210-pound senior wide receiver caught 108 passes for 1,824 yards and 20 touchdowns this past season, leading the Cavaliers (10-3) to the Class 4A-Division I quarterfinals. A 2015 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas selection and also a standout in basketball as well as track and field, Arcega-Whiteside set school career records with 207 catches, 3,779 receiving yards and 38 touchdowns, averaging 18.2 yards per reception as a three-year varsity starter.

Arcega-Whiteside has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, as a youth football and basketball coach, and on behalf of his school's Student Athletes Think Reading is Special program.

"J.J. Arcega-Whiteside is the best wide receiver we faced all season," said Brian Strickland, head coach at J.L. Mann High. "He always carried himself with class and poise."

Arcega-Whiteside has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Stanford University beginning 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.

Arcega-Whiteside joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Football Players of the Year Shuler Bentley (2013-14 & 2012-13, James F. Byrnes High School), Quinshad Davis (2011-12, Gaffney High School), Justin Worley (2010-11, Northwestern High School), Marcus Lattimore (2009-10 & 2008-09, Byrnes) and Daquan Bowers (2007-08, Bamberg-Ehrhardt) 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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