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**PEARL-COHN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 4, 2014) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Ke'Shawn Vaughn of Pearl-Cohn High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year. Vaughn is the second Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Pearl-Cohn 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 Vaughn 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, Vaughn 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 5-foot-11, 205-pound senior running back rushed for 2,646 yards and 45 touchdowns on 231 carries this past season, leading the Firebirds to an 11-3 record and the Class 4A semifinals. An All-State selection as a junior, Vaughn earned the 2014 Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Class AA Back of the Year award.

Vaughn has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's student leadership group, he has volunteered locally as a mentor for eighth-grade students.

"Ke'Shawn Vaughn is one of the best running backs I've ever seen on the field," said Brian Harrell, head coach at Stratford High. "He has outstanding balance, speed, strength and vision. The most underrated thing that goes unnoticed about him is his toughness."

Vaughn remains undecided on a collegiate destination.

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.

Vaughn joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year Todd Kelly Jr. (2013-14, Webb School of Knoxville), Mark Dodson (2012-13, 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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