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**SOUTH CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Kentre Grier of South Charleston High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year. Grier is the second Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from South Charleston 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 Grier as West Virginia'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 6-foot-3, 170-pound junior quarterback has led the Black Eagles to an 11-2 record and a berth in the Class AAA state championship game against Capital, scheduled for Dec. 6. At the time of his selection, Grier had passed for 3,339 yards and 46 touchdowns, completing 205-of-290 attempts (71 percent) against 10 interceptions. A 2014 Kennedy Award Finalist, he also rushed for 1,184 yards and 13 touchdowns on 149 carries through 13 games.

Grier has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an annual food drive and as a youth football and basketball coach.

"Kentre Grier possesses a willingness to learn and be the best at his position," said South Charleston head coach Donnie Mays. "He is the smartest quarterback that I have ever coached. His desire to be the best quarterback is what has led to his successes on the football field. Still, he doesn't stop there. He strives in the classroom and is an outstanding young man."

Grier will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Grier joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Football Players of the Year Chazzy Thomas (2013-14, Morgantown High School), Ryan Switzer (2012-13 & 2011-12, George Washington High School), Keion Wright (2010-11, Capital High School), Allan Wasonga (2009-10, Parkersburg), Aaron Slusher (2008-09, South Charleston High School) and Josh Jenkins (2007-08, Parkersburg) 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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