

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3556)**

**OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 3, 2015) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jack Abraham of Oxford High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year. Abraham is the first Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Oxford 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 Abraham as Mississippi's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Abraham 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 quarterback has led the Chargers to a 12-2 record and a berth in the Class 5A state championship game against Wayne County High, scheduled for Dec. 5. At the time of his selection, Abraham had completed 297-of-453 passes for 4,541 yards and 53 touchdowns against just five interceptions. A preseason Clarion Ledger Dandy Dozen selection, Abraham has led Oxford to three straight state final appearances. He entered the title game with 11,474 passing yards and 126 touchdowns in his prep football career.

Abraham has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research. He has also donated his time as a youth football coach.

"Jack Abraham is a true quarterback that always knows where to go with the football," said Nick Nester, head coach of Lake Cormorant High. "He's one of the best quarterbacks that I have seen in high school football, maybe the best."

Abraham has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Tulane University in the fall of 2016.

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.

Abraham joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Football Players of the Year Darrell Henderson (2014-15, South Panola High School), Devin Voorhies (2013-14, Wilkinson County High School), Ashton Shumpert (2012-13, Itawamba Agricultural High School), Anthony Alford (2011-12 & 2010-11, Petal High School), Dylan Favre (2009-10, St. Stanislaus College), Tyler Russell (2008-09, Meridian High School) and Charles Mitchell (2007-08, Clarksdale High School) 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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