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**SPARTANBURG HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Austin Scott of Spartanburg High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year. Scott is the first Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Spartanburg 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 Scott 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, Scott 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, 186-pound senior quarterback has led the Vikings to a 12-1 record and a berth in the Division II-AAAA championship game against Lexington, scheduled for Dec. 4. A 2015 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas selection and a Mr. Football finalist, Scott completed 298-of-438 passes for 4,664 yards and 60 touchdowns against 11 interceptions entering the state final.

Scott has maintained a 3.20 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's junior leadership council, he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society.

"He is the guy that makes the Spartanburg offense go," said Steven Taneyhill, head coach at Union County High. "He is like a coach on the field and has had a great season."

Scott remains undecided upon 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.

Scott joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Football Players of the Year J.J. Arcega-Whiteside (2014-15, Dorman High School), 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, James F. Byrnes High School) and Daquan Bowers (2007-08, Bamberg-Ehrhardt 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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