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**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEVADA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 1, 2011) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Shaquille Powell of Bishop Gorman High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year. Powell is the fourth Gatorade Nevada Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Powell as Nevada's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Powell 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, 175-pound senior running back and strong safety has led the Gaels to a 13-1 record and a berth in the Class 4A state final against Reed High, scheduled for Dec. 3. Powell rushed for 2,302 yards and 36 touchdowns through 14 games, averaging 12.6 yards per carry, and added 11 receptions for 171 yards and three scores. The Sunset Southwest District Offensive Player of the Year, he's totaled 71 tackles as a defender with two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown.

Powell has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at an area homeless shelter and food bank, and as a youth football counselor.

"Shaq Powell runs very hard—he stays low to the ground and is very elusive," said Shawn Dupris, head coach of rival Bonanza High. "I was surprised to see him playing both sides of the ball so much this year. I think that says a lot about him considering the talent that is on that team."

Powell 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 ESPNHS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Powell joins recent Gatorade Nevada Football Players of the Year Keegan Buck (2010-11, Foothill High School) Dezerick Reed (2009-10, Del Sol), Tyler York (2008-09, Robert McQueen High School) and Devonte Christopher (2007-08, Canyon Springs) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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