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**CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 2, 2010) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Davonte Neal of Chaparral High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year. Neal is the second Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Chaparral 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 Neal as Arizona's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Neal 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-8, 173-pound junior wide receiver and defensive back has led the Firebirds to a 12-0 record and a berth in the Class 5A, Division II semifinals against Westview High, scheduled for Dec. 3. At the time of his selection, Neal had 31 receptions for 829 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also rushed for 364 yards and eight touchdowns on 38 carries through 12 games. As a returner, he had averaged 41.2 yards per kick return, including one for a touchdown, along with 20.8 yards per punt return, with three resulting in scores. Defensively, Neal had 21 tackles and four interceptions, returning two for touchdowns.

Neal has maintained a 3.04 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a middle school mentor and as a youth football coach.

"I think Davonte Neal is not only the best player in our state this year, but he will go down as one of the best players in the state all-time," said Dana Zupke, head coach of rival Pinnacle High. "He is strong, extremely fast and physical, and he is a tough competitor."

Neal 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 ESPN RISE 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.

Neal joins recent Gatorade Arizona Football Players of the Year Brett Hundley (2009-10, Chandler), Craig Roh (2008-09, Chaparral) and Tim Ruben (2007-08, Saguaro) 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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