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**MASUK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Casey Cochran of Masuk High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year. Cochran is the first Gatorade Connecticut Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Masuk 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 Cochran as Connecticut's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Cochran 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, 210-pound junior quarterback has led the Panthers to an 11-0 record and a berth in the Class L state semifinals against Darien High, scheduled for Dec. 4. At the time of his selection, Cochran had passed for 2,697 yards and 36 touchdowns, completing 158-of-239 attempts while throwing just seven interceptions. He had also rushed for seven touchdowns. Cochran passed for 2,968 yards and 26 touchdowns as a sophomore for Masuk, a year after leading New London High to the Class SS state championship.

Cochran has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. The winner of the Masuk High Book Awards for Introduction to Engineering and Algebra I and Geometry, he has volunteered locally at area food banks and as a peer tutor.

"Casey Cochran is a real special player," said Joe Lato, head coach of rival Weston High. "His mechanics are flawless and he's unbelievably accurate. He's too advanced for high school, that's for sure. He does things that there's no way a high school kid should do."

Cochran 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.

Cochran joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Football Players of the Year Kevin Pierre-Louis (2009-10, King Low Heywood Thomas), Mike Osiecki (2008-09, Seymour) and Alex Thomas (2007-08, Ansonia) 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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