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**SALESIANUM SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Ryan Kilpatrick of Salesianum School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year. Kilpatrick is the fifth Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Salesianum 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 Kilpatrick as Delaware's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Kilpatrick 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, 205-pound senior running back rushed for 1,663 yards and 21 touchdowns on 219 carries this past season, leading the Sallies (9-3) to the Division I semifinals. Kilpatrick was a Second Team All-State and First Team All-Catholic selection as a junior, when he led Salesianum to a state title.

Kilpatrick has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally building and repairing houses for the poor.

"Kilpatrick makes people miss and he's definitely someone you have to game-plan against," said Mark DelPercio, head coach of rival Middletown High. "They've got a very good offensive line there, but he'd make even an average line look good."

Kilpatrick has signed a National Letter of Intent to play lacrosse on scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Kilpatrick joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year C. J. Jones (2009-10, A.I. du Pont), Duron Harmon (2008-09, Caesar Rodney) and Brian Potts (2007-08, Caravel Academy) 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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