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**PAUL J. HAGERTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Jeff Driskel of Paul J. Hagerty High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Florida Football Player of the Year. Driskel is the first Gatorade Florida Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Paul J. Hagerty 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 Driskel as Florida's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Driskel 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-4, 230-pound senior quarterback completed 138-of-235 attempts for 1,783 yards and 16 touchdowns against just three interceptions, leading the Huskies (7-3) to their first-ever Class 6A state tournament berth this past season. In the 56-35 first-round loss to Lakeland, Driskel amassed 488 total yards and five touchdowns. An Under Armour All-American, he also rushed for 1,296 yards and 20 touchdowns on 151 carries in addition to hauling in two receptions for 138 yards and two touchdowns this past fall. He concluded his career as Hagerty's leader in every passing and rushing statistical category.

Driskel has maintained a 3.67 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of his church, a food bank and a campaign against drunk driving.

"I have been around high school football my entire life, and Jeff Driskel's performance and effort in turning our program around is the greatest thing I have ever seen," said Hagerty Head Coach Nate Gierke. "He is the best high school football player I have ever coached or seen in person."

Driskel has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Driskel joins recent Gatorade Florida Football Players of the Year Matt Elam (2009-10, William T. Dwyer), Jacobbi McDaniel (2008-09, Madison County) and Brandon Harris (2007-08, Booker T. Washington) 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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