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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Reilly O'Toole of Wheaton Warrenville South High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year. O'Toole is the third Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Wheaton Warrenville South 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 O'Toole as Illinois' best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, O'Toole 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, 215-pound senior quarterback completed 186-of-252 attempts for 3,187 yards and 42 touchdowns against just three interceptions this past season, leading the Tigers (14-0) to a second consecutive Class 7A state championship. Also the ESPNChicago.com High School Football Player of the Year, O'Toole rushed for 444 yards and six touchdowns on 83 carries this past fall. In a 28-17 victory against Lake Zurich in the state title game, he completed 14-of-23 passes for 182 yards and two touchdowns. A returning All-Area selection as named by the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun Times* and *Daily Herald*, O'Toole completed 144-of-233 attempts for 2,119 yards and 24 touchdowns as a junior in 2009.

Also a basketball standout, O'Toole has maintained a 4.07 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's athletic leadership council, he has also donated his time locally to environmental clean-up efforts and the Special Olympics in addition to mentoring youth athletes.

"There's nobody in the same league as Reilly O'Toole," said Chad Hetlet, head coach of rival Glenbard West High. "He has poise in the pocket. He has the ability to get out of trouble and keep a play alive. His accuracy is pinpoint; he doesn't miss a target. He's a big, strong kid. He's a man playing against boys. Their team is good all over the place, but he makes a big, big difference for them. He's a special kid."

O'Toole has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Illinois 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.

O'Toole joins recent Gatorade Illinois Football Players of the Year Christian Lombard (2009-10, William Fremd), Chris Watt (2008-09, Glenbard West) and Steve Filer (2007-08, Mount Carmel) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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