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**DOWLING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Connor Bravard of Dowling Catholic High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year. Bravard is the first Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Dowling Catholic 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 Bravard as Iowa's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Bravard 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-1, 190-pound senior quarterback completed 150-of-226 attempts for 2,172 yards and 22 touchdowns against just five interceptions, leading the Maroons (14-0) to the Class 4A state championship this past season. The Offensive Player of the Year as named by the *Des Moines Register*, Bravard also rushed for 1,191 yards and 17 touchdowns on 154 carries this past fall. In a 38-31 victory against Iowa City in the state title game, he completed 18-of-24 passes for 269 yards and two touchdowns in addition to rushing for 153 yards on 20 carries.

Also a baseball and track standout, Bravard has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A student ambassador at his school, he has also donated his time as a mentor to inner-city elementary school students.

"He certainly got our attention," said Dan Sabers, head coach of rival Iowa City High. "Based on what we saw, he's certainly a great player. He rushed for over 1,000 yards and threw for more than 2,000. He's very elusive. He throws all over the field. He did a lot of good things for them."

Bravard remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Bravard joins recent Gatorade Iowa Football Players of the Year James Morris (2009-10 & 2008-09, Solon) and Dan Hoch (2007-08, Harlan Community) 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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