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**GARDNER EDGERTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Bubba Starling of Gardner Edgerton High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kansas Football Player of the Year. Starling is the first Gatorade Kansas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Gardner Edgerton 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 Starling as Kansas' best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Starling 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-5, 200-pound senior quarterback led the Trail Blazers to an 11-1 record and the Class 5A state semifinals this past season. Starling ran for 2,417 yards and 31 touchdowns on 172 carries, averaging 14.1 yards per rushing attempt. He also passed for 812 yards and eight touchdowns, completing 40-of-93 attempts. A two-time All-State selection, Starling rushed for a school-record 395 yards and five touchdowns in Gardner Edgerton's 45-42 loss to Blue Valley in the state semifinals. A standout pitcher and outfielder for the Gardner Edgerton baseball team and a member of the 2010 USA Junior Olympic National Team, Starling concluded his prep football career with 4,831 rushing yards and 60 touchdowns.

Starling has maintained a 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a middle school physical education instructor and he has donated his time to a literacy-outreach program for local elementary school students.

"The thing with Bubba Starling, the speed is just unbelievable," said Alan Schuckman, head coach of rival Bishop Carroll High. "His ability to get to the corner and score is unreal. He is special."

Starling has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Nebraska beginning in the fall of 2011. He also expects to play baseball for the Cornhuskers.

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.

Starling joins recent Gatorade Kansas Football Players of the Year Blake Bell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Bishop Carroll Catholic) and Bryce Brown (2007-08, East) 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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