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**CHEVERUS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Peter Gwilym of Cheverus High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year. Gwilym is the second Gatorade Maine Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Cheverus 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 Gwilym as Maine's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Gwilym 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, 175-pound senior quarterback and safety led the Stags to a 12-0 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Gwilym passed for 763 yards and nine touchdowns, completing 52-of-88 attempts while throwing just two interceptions. He also rushed for 705 yards and 12 touchdowns on 120 carries. The Southern Maine Athletic Association Player of the Year, Gwilym recorded 76 tackles, forced three fumbles and made five interceptions, one of which he returned 106 yards for a touchdown in Cheverus's 35-34 win over Deering High in the state semifinals.

Gwilym has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth football coach.

"He doesn't leave the field," said Matt Perkins, head coach of rival Windham High. "He is the heart and soul of the offense, and at free safety, he sets everyone around him. They've been in some absolute dogfights, and he's been the centerpiece of pulling them out of it."

Gwilym 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.

Gwilym joins recent Gatorade Maine Football Players of the Year Jack Mallis (2009-10, Windham), Jack Heary (2008-09, Deering) and Justin Villacci (2007-08, Gorham) 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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