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**WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Matt Hermanson of Washington High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year. Hermanson is the fifth Gatorade South Dakota Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Washington 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 Hermanson as South Dakota's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Hermanson 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, 186-pound senior quarterback and safety led the Warriors to a 13-0 record and their second consecutive Class 11AA state championship this past season. Captain of the *Argus Leader* Elite 45 team, Hermanson completed 85 of 153 passes for 1,359 yards and 22 touchdowns, and also rushed for 514 yards and six touchdowns on 86 carries. He recorded 61 total tackles and four interceptions on defense, earning All-State Team honors for the third straight season.

Hermanson has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. A four-year member of the Student Council, he has volunteered locally with a learn-to-read program.

"Hermanson is versatile, fast, a good hitter and a smart kid," said Steve Kueter, head coach of rival O'Gorman High. "He throws the ball as well as he runs it."

Hermanson has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Montana 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.

Hermanson joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Football Players of the Year Austin Sumner (2009-10, Brandon Valley), Dustin Lotzer (2008-09, Sisseton) and Riley Reiff (2007-08, Parkston) 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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