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**MOUNTAIN CREST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Alex Kuresa of Mountain Crest High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year. Kuresa is the second Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Crest 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 Kuresa as Utah's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Kuresa 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, 180-pound senior quarterback completed 297-of-465 passes for 3,983 yards and 38 touchdowns, leading the Mustangs (10-3) to the Class 4A state championship game this past season. In a 37-36, double-overtime loss to Highland in the Class 4A state title game, Kuresa completed 23-of-38 passes for 293 yards and two touchdowns. The returning Class 4A All-State Most Valuable Player as named by *The Salt Lake Tribune*, he also rushed for 698 yards and 19 touchdowns on 185 carries. Kuresa concluded his four-year career as the state leader in total touchdowns, passing TDs, total passing yards, total yards, passing attempts and completions.

Also a basketball and track standout, Kuresa has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's student council, he has volunteered on behalf of his church in addition to donating his time as a youth football and basketball instructor.

"He's always been a great leader," said Mountain Crest Head Coach Mark Wootton. "He's very, very well prepared. People forget how much time goes into it. The game seemed to kind of slow down for him. No matter what he did, he seemed to make the right read. He's very, very accurate. He's the only one who has ever done what he's done in the state. He set the bar pretty high. It's going to take a pretty special person to come through and break those records."

Kuresa has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Brigham Young University 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.

Kuresa joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Harvey Langi (2009-10, Bingham), Ammon Olsen (2008-09, Alta) and Justin Sorensen (2007-08, Bingham) 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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