

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**RICE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Christian McCormick of Rice Memorial High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year. McCormick is the second Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Rice Memorial 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 McCormick as Vermont's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, McCormick 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-2, 190-pound senior quarterback led the Green Knights to a 10-1 record and the Division II state title this past season. McCormick passed for 2,619 yards and 37 touchdowns, completing 159-of-262 attempts while throwing just seven interceptions. A 2010 Vermont North Team selection, McCormick also rushed for 357 yards and scored three touchdowns.

McCormick has maintained an 86.4 average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at an area homeless shelter and food bank, as a youth football coach and as a CYO basketball camp counselor.

"Christian McCormick is a remarkable high school football player," said Rice Memorial High Head Coach Neil Brodeur. "He is a leader on and off the field and he inspires his teammates to do great things. When he is on the field, something spectacular is always just a play away."

McCormick remains undecided upon a college 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.

McCormick joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Max Librizzi (2009-10, Essex), Mick Wong (2008-09, Hartford) and James Durham (2007-08, Spaulding) 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.

###