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**SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Kasen Williams of Skyline High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Washington Football Player of the Year. Williams is the second Gatorade Washington Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline 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 Williams as Washington's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Williams 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, 200-pound wide receiver and safety led the Spartans to a 12-1 record entering the Class 4A state final against Ferris High, scheduled for Dec. 4. At the time of his selection, Williams had recorded 83 receptions for 1,538 yards and 21 touchdowns. A 2011 U.S. Army All-American and the 2010 *Seattle Times* Athlete of the Year, Williams also totaled 74 tackles with two interceptions and two fumble recoveries on defense.

Williams has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, youth basketball referee and football camp counselor.

"Kasen Williams is a tremendous talent," said Mike Pluschke, head coach of rival Redmond High. "He is an amazing athlete with all the gifts of the best that have ever played the game at the high school level. He is one of the most fundamentally sound wide receivers and safeties that I have seen."

Williams has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Washington Football Players of the Year Jake Heaps (2009-10 & 2008-09, Skyline) and Tony Heard (2007-08, Edmonds-Woodway) 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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