

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Keion Wright of Capital High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year. Wright is the second Gatorade West Virginia Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Wright as West Virginia's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Wright 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 5-foot-9, 190-pound senior running back rushed for 2,157 yards and 24 touchdowns on 214 carries this past season, leading the Cougars (9-3) to the Class AAA quarterfinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection and a 2010 Kennedy Award finalist, Wright also caught 15 passes for 221 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Wright has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's Science Club, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a literacy-outreach program and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit Alzheimer's disease research.

"Wright is an amazing player and he epitomizes everything about high school football in West Virginia," said Ralph Hensley, head coach of rival Riverside High. "He runs with a lot of power and makes things happen whenever he's on the field."

Wright 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.

Wright joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Football Players of the Year Allan Wasonga (2009-10, Parkersburg), Aaron Slusher (2008-09, South Charleston) and Josh Jenkins (2007-08, Parkersburg) 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).

###