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**NATRONA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WYOMING 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 Jim Shellenberger of Natrona County High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Wyoming Football Player of the Year. Shellenberger is the fifth Gatorade Wyoming Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Natrona County 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 Shellenberger as Wyoming's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Shellenberger 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, 185-pound senior quarterback led the Mustangs to an 11-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Shellenberger rushed for 1,052 yards and 20 touchdowns on 154 carries, and completed 113 of 193 passes for 1,786 yards and 16 touchdowns. He was named the Class 4A Offensive Player of the Year and the *Casper Star-Tribune* Super 25 Offensive Player of the Year.

Shellenberger has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with a suicide prevention program and the Casper chapter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

"He throws well and he's very, very dangerous running the ball," said Chad Goff, head coach of rival Cheyenne East High. "He's very scary with what he can do on the field."

Shellenberger remains undecided upon a collegiate 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.

Shellenberger joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Football Players of the Year Austin Woodward (2009-10, Sheridan), Tommy Earl (2008-09, Natrona County) and Alex Stratton (2007-08, Cheyenne East) 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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