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**KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 1, 2011) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced A.J. Hull of Kenai Central High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year. Hull is the second Gatorade Alaska Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Kenai Central 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 Hull as Alaska's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Hull 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-11, 180-pound senior quarterback, defensive back, punt and kick returner led the Kardinals to a 6-4 record and the Medium School state championship this past season. Hull passed for 816 yards and nine touchdowns, completing 32-of-102 attempts while throwing nine interceptions. The 2011 Alaska School Activities Association Medium School Offensive Player of the Year, he also rushed for 933 yards and 14 touchdowns on 162 carries and amassed 96 tackles and six interceptions on defense.

Hull has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple charitable fundraising campaigns and as a youth football coach and referee.

"A.J. Hull is a fantastic athlete and leader," said Norm Bouchard, head coach of rival Houston High. "He makes everyone around him better and he leads his teammates to levels they never would have thought possible on their own."

Hull 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 ESPNHS 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.

Hull joins recent Gatorade Alaska Football Players of the Year Robbie Smithwick (2010-11, Soldotna High School) Justin Kauffman (2009-10, West Anchorage), Anthony Griglione (2008-09, Soldotna High School) and Bill Chimphalee (2007-08, Kenai Central) 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).

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