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**SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 1, 2011) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Zach Kline of San Ramon Valley High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade California Football Player of the Year. Kline is the first Gatorade California Football Player of the Year to be chosen from San Ramon Valley 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 Kline as California's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Kline 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, 205-pound senior quarterback has led the Wolves to a 9-3 record and a berth in the CIF North Coast Section Division I semifinals against Monte Vista High, scheduled for Dec. 3. Kline passed for 3,079 yards and 32 touchdowns, completing 195-of-289 attempts while throwing just six interceptions through 12 games. A 2012 U.S. Army All-American, he was also an ESPNHS Elite 11 Quarterback Camp invitee.

Kline has maintained a 3.28 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as an elementary school guest speaker and on behalf of Locks of Love, a non-profit organization which provides hairpieces for financially disadvantaged children suffering from medical hair loss.

"Zach Kline is an outstanding quarterback with limitless potential and the desire to be the best he can be," said San Ramon Valley High head coach Mark Kessler. "His work ethic is relentless and he always finds time to improve."

Kline has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of California beginning in the fall of 2012.

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.

Kline joins recent Gatorade California Football Players of the Year Cody Kessler (2010-11, Centennial High School) Malcolm Jones (2009-10, Oaks Christian School), Ryan Kasdorf (2008-09, Notre Dame High School) and Matt Barkley (2007-08, Mater Dei) 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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