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**HIGHLANDS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Joe Hansley of Highlands Ranch High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year. Hansley is the first Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Highlands Ranch 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 Hansley as Colorado's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Hansley 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-10, 170-pound senior running back and defensive back rushed for 1,851 yards and 24 touchdowns on 194 carries this past season, leading the Falcons (9-3) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals. Hansley caught 27 passes for 518 yards and eight scores, and also recorded 29 tackles and seven interceptions on defense. He is a two-time First Team All-Continental League selection as a running back and return specialist.

Hansley has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at Children's Hospital Colorado and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit autism research.

"Joe Hansley is a great, great player who killed us every time we played them," said Joe Johnson, head coach of rival ThunderRidge High. "Every time his team needed a big play he made one. He is as good a back as we have ever faced."

Hansley 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 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.

Hansley joins recent Gatorade Colorado Football Players of the Year Jaleel Awini (2010-11, Rangeview High School) Austin Hinder (2009-10, Steamboat Springs), Bryan Peters (2008-09, Rocky Mountain High School) and Jon Major (2007-08, Ponderosa) 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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