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**GLADES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 William Likely of Glades Central High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Florida Football Player of the Year. Likely is the first Gatorade Florida Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Glades 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 Likely as Florida's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Likely 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-8, 170-pound junior all-purpose player has led the Raiders to a 12-0 record and a berth in the Class 5A regional finals against Miami Norland, scheduled for Dec. 2. Likely rushed for 742 yards and 11 touchdowns on 69 carries entering the postseason round of eight. A returning Class 2A First Team All-State selection, he also hauled in 31 receptions for 586 yards and five touchdowns through 12 games. A two-time Nike Football Training Camp Defensive Back Most Valuable Player, Likely has 36 tackles, 15 pass breakups and four interceptions for a defense that allows just 84 rushing yards, 35 passing yards and 6.2 points per game. On special teams, he returned 12 total punts and kickoffs back for 380 more yards and two additional touchdowns.

Likely has maintained a 3.86 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time to area youth as a football instructor and on behalf of a literacy-outreach program, he has volunteered locally at a food pantry and an assisted living facility.

"Likely single-handedly beat us," said Dwyer High head coach Jack Daniels, whose team lost to Glades Central, 24-10. "The kid is a fantastic player. You know what's coming, and he still beats you. Obviously, going into the game, we were worried about a lot of their players, but he got the first kickoff and took it back. We took the lead going into the fourth quarter, and he made two huge catches. We knew they were going to hang the deep ball on him, and our defenders were in perfect position but he still made the play. For a little guy, he's tough and resilient."

Likely will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Likely joins recent Gatorade Florida Football Players of the Year Jeff Driskel (2010-11, Paul J. Hagerty High School), Matt Elam (2009-10, William T. Dwyer), Jacobbi McDaniel (2008-09, Madison County High School) and Brandon Harris (2007-08, Booker T. Washington) 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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