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**CEDAR FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Barkley Hill of Cedar Falls High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year. Hill is the first Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Cedar Falls 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 Hill as Iowa's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Hill 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, 190-pound senior running back rushed for 2,491 yards and 40 touchdowns on 316 carries this season, leading the Tigers (11-2) to the Class 4A state semifinals. A returning Elite All-State Team selection as named by the Des Moines Register, Hill rushed for 229 yards and five touchdowns in the state quarterfinals. Hill also averaged 39.6 yards on 30 punt attempts. He concluded his career with 6,163 yards on 754 carries and a Class 4A record 89 touchdowns.

Hill has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. In addition to volunteering on behalf of his school's Tiger Booster Club, he has donated his time on behalf of the Cedar Falls High School Harmony Group, celebrating diversity in his community.

"Barkley Hill is an outstanding running back," said Mark Ehlers, head coach of rival Hempstead High. "He has a rare combination of speed and strength that is hard to find. He also has great vision as he hits the hole and seems to always make the right cut. He also handles himself well after the game. He's one of the best running backs to come out of Iowa in a long time."

Hill has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at Iowa State University 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.

Hill joins recent Gatorade Iowa Football Players of the Year Connor Bravard (2010-11, Dowling Catholic High School) James Morris (2009-10, Solon), James Morris (2008-09, Solon High School) and Dan Hoch (2007-08, Harlan Community) 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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