

Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Jonathan DiBiaso of Everett High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year. DiBiaso is the fifth Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Everett 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 DiBiaso as Massachusetts's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, DiBiaso 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-1, 197-pound senior quarterback led the Crimson Tide to a 12-0 record and a berth in the Division 1A Eastern Mass. Super Bowl against Lincoln-Sudbury High, scheduled for Dec. 3. DiBiaso passed for 2,731 yards and a state-record 44 touchdowns through 12 games, completing 162-of-273 passes with just six interceptions. The state's career leader with 103 touchdown passes, DiBiaso was the Boston Globe Division 1 Player of the Year and a Boston Herald All-Scholastic in 2010 when he threw a then-record 43 TD passes.

DiBiaso has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a Big Brother/Big Sister mentor, a peer tutor and a youth football coach.

"Jonathan is the hardest-working high school football player I've ever been around," said John Dubzinski, the head coach at Arlington High and a former Everett assistant coach. "He constantly worked to get better at every aspect of his game, and it has obviously paid off. Even to this day, he cares more about Super Bowl rings as opposed to individual statistics. The state passing record couldn't belong to a better, harder-working kid."

DiBiaso 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.

DiBiaso joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Football Players of the Year Matt Costello (2010-11, Everett High School) Nick LaSpada (2009-10, Billerica Memorial), Matt Grimard (2008-09, Dracut High School) and Matt Bellomo (2007-08, Holliston) 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.

###