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**CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Caleb Kidder of Capital High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year. Kidder is the fifth Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Kidder as Montana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Kidder 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-5, 245-pound senior guard and defensive end led the Bruins to a 12-1 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Kidder amassed 97 tackles, 13 sacks, 11 tackles for a loss and six forced fumbles for the Capital defense. A three-time All-State selection, Kidder also recorded 45 pancake blocks on offense.

Kidder has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered on behalf of local flood relief, youth sports programs and a school anti-drug initiative.

"Kidder is dominant on both sides of the ball, just a great, great player," said Russell McCarvel, head coach of rival Flathead High. "He's as good a two-way lineman as we've had in this league."

Kidder has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Montana 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.

Kidder joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School) Matt Miller (2009-10, Capital), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School) and Casey McMillan (2007-08, Central Catholic) 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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