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**GILTNER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Drew Ott of Giltner High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Nebraska Football Player of the Year. Ott is the first Gatorade Nebraska Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Giltner 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 Ott as Nebraska's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Ott 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, 247-pound senior athlete hauled in 52 receptions for 960 yards and 18 touchdowns this past season, leading the Hornets (10-1) to the Class D2 state quarterfinals. A two-time returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World-Herald, Ott also rushed for 62 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries in addition to completing 7-of-8 pass attempts for 99 yards and a score. Defensively, he amassed 122 tackles, four forced fumbles and four interceptions for a defense that allowed just 87 rushing yards and 78 passing yards per game.

Also a basketball and track standout, Ott has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 2 in his graduating class. In addition to donating his time as a youth football and basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church and the annual Giltner community homecoming event, Autumn Fest.

"Drew Ott is an outstanding football player," said Samuel Boshart, head coach of rival Harvard High. "He's very football smart and always seems to be involved in every play either on defense or offense. I was able to watch Giltner's playoff game against Humphrey St. Francis, and he set the tone of the game early by just outplaying and being more physical than the opposing team."

Ott has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Ott joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Football Players of the Year Tyson Broekemeier (2010-11, Aurora High School) Bronson Marsh (2009-10, Millard South), Tyrone Sellers (2008-09, McCook High School) and Baker Steinkuhler (2007-08, Lincoln Southwest) 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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