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**KENTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Maty Mauk of Kenton High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year. Mauk is the second Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Kenton 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 Mauk as Ohio's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Mauk 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 state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2, 195-pound senior quarterback has led the Wildcats to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Division IV semifinals against Norwayne High, scheduled for Dec. 3. Mauk passed for 5,006 yards with 63 touchdowns through 14 games while completing 353-of-516 attempts with just 12 interceptions. He also rushed for 1,664 yards on 208 carries with 22 touchdowns. The returning 2010-2011 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year, Mauk became the national prep record-holder for career passing attempts (2,033), total yards (21,565), completions (1,309) and touchdown passes (213) this season.

Mauk has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a bible camp counselor, an elementary school tutor and as a snow removal assistant.

"Maty Mauk is an incredible football player," said Chip Otten, head coach of rival Coldwater High. "His passing accuracy is incredible along with his ability to scramble and make great plays that should be sacks or incomplete passes. He has typically always been the fastest and most athletic player in addition to being very smart and competitive. He has the whole package."

Mauk has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Missouri 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.

Mauk joins recent Gatorade Ohio Football Players of the Year Jordan Hicks (2009-10, Lakota West), Storm Klein (2008-09, Licking Valley High School) and Dan McCarthy (2007-08, Cardinal Mooney) 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).