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**METRO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Andrew Hearon of Metro Christian Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year. Hearon is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Metro Christian Academy.

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 Hearon as Oklahoma's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Hearon 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 5-foot-9, 175-pound senior quarterback completed 241-of-365 attempts for 3,695 yards and 42 touchdowns against just five interceptions this past season, leading the Patriots (12-1) to the Class 3A state quarterfinals. A returning Second Team All-State selection as named by the Tulsa World, Hearon also rushed for 375 yards and four touchdowns on 96 carries. As a junior in 2010, he led the state with 3,900 passing yards and a single-season state record 49 touchdown passes.

Hearon has maintained a 4.59 weighted GPA in the classroom. Also an accomplished guitarist, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church, as a youth football coach and as an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

"Andrew Hearon is one heck of a QB," said Lynn Cutshaw, head coach of rival Inola High. "He's very smart, throws a great football, reads coverage well and doesn't seem to get discouraged. He has all the other tools you'd want in a quarterback. I'd take him in a heartbeat."

Hearon 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.

Hearon joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Football Players of the Year David Glidden (2010-11, Mustang High School) Demarco Cobbs (2009-10, Central), Timothy Flanders (2008-09, Midwest City High School) and Mark Ginther (2007-08, Jenks) 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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