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**MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Patton Robinette of Maryville High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year. Robinette is the first Gatorade Tennessee Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Maryville 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 Robinette as Tennessee's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Robinette 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, 205-pound senior quarterback has led the Rebels to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Class 6A state championship game against Whitehaven, scheduled for Dec. 3. Robinette has passed for 1,509 yards and 21 touchdowns entering the state title game, completing 108 of 150 passes while throwing just seven interceptions. He has also rushed for 860 yards and 16 touchdowns on 82 carries. A Tennessee Mr. Football finalist, Robinette was selected for the ESPNHS Elite 11 Quarterback Camp and has guided Maryville to 28 consecutive wins over two seasons.

Robinette has maintained a 4.55 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an area pre-school program and a youth football camp, and has participated in multiple service-mission projects with his church youth group.

"Patton Robinette is the best quarterback I have coached against in the 23 years I have been coaching," said Scott Meadows, head coach of rival Knoxville Catholic High. "He can do it all. He sees the entire field and has great control of his offensive team. He has very good speed too and is a great runner."

Robinette has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Robinette joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Football Players of the Year I'Tavius Mathers (2010-11, Blackman High School) JaRon Toney (2009-10, Alcoa), Marsalis Teague (2008-09, Henry County High School) and Curt Phillips (2007-08, Sullivan South) 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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