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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**LONE PEAK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Chase Hansen of Lone Peak High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year. Hansen is the first Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Lone Peak 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 Hansen as Utah's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Hansen 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-4, 210-pound senior quarterback led the Knights to a 14-0 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Hansen passed for 3,090 yards and 38 touchdowns, completing 192-of-317 attempts. A returning Class 5A Second Team All-State selection as named by the Deseret News, he also rushed for 1,410 yards and 17 touchdowns on 181 carries. In a 41-21 shootout against Fremont in the state title game, he completed 16-of-31 passes for 242 yards and three touchdowns.

Hansen has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football instructor, he has volunteered as a peer tutor for special education students and as part of multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of his church.

"He is a great athlete and an even better person," said David Peck, head coach of rival Bingham High. "He runs like he is the best running back in the state, he is a very intelligent quarterback with a great arm and plays with the spirit of a lion. I think he is the best QB that I have had to prepare against in my 28 years as a high school coach."

Hansen has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Utah 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.

Hansen joins recent Gatorade Utah Football Players of the Year Alex Kuresa (2010-11, Mountain Crest High School) Harvey Langi (2009-10, Bingham), Ammon Olsen (2008-09, Alta High School) and Justin Sorensen (2007-08, Bingham) 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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