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**BURR & BURTON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Jake Stalcup of Burr & Burton Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year. Stalcup is the first Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Burr & Burton 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 Stalcup as Vermont's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Stalcup 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, 185-pound junior quarterback passed for 2,448 yards and 31 touchdowns this past season, completing 163-of-286 passes while throwing 10 interceptions, leading the Bulldogs (7-4) to the Division 2 state final. A 2011 ESPNHS preseason All-State selection, Stalcup passed for 202 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the Division 2 semifinal win over North Country Union.

Stalcup has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth football and baseball coach and has assisted in relief efforts for Hurricane Irene flood victims.

"Jake Stalcup has become a first rate quarterback in every sense," said Burr and Burton Academy head coach Jason Thompson. "Every single week he gave us a chance to win and he will only keep getting better."

Stalcup will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Stalcup joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Christian McCormick (2010-11, Rice Memorial High School) Max Librizzi (2009-10, Essex), Mick Wong (2008-09, Hartford High School) and James Durham (2007-08, Spaulding) 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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