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**MOUNTAIN POINTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (November 29, 2012) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jalen Brown of Mountain Pointe High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Arizona Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Pointe 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 Brown as Arizona's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Brown 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-2, 178-pound junior wide receiver and safety caught 68 passes for 1,235 yards and 18 touchdowns this past season, leading the Pride (12-2) to the Division I state championship game. On defense, Brown recorded 25 tackles, 12 pass break-ups and five interceptions—returning one for a touchdown—in addition to forcing and recovering a fumble. A two-time All-State Honorable Mention selection, he is rated as the nation's No. 46 recruit in the Class of 2014 by Scout.com.

Brown has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research, as a peer tutor and as a youth football coach and referee.

"Jalen Brown is a stud," said Tom Joseph, head coach of Corona del Sol High. "He is tough to cover and a great young man. He is the best receiver we saw this year."

Brown 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with USA TODAY High School Sports, 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Arizona Football Players of the Year Davonte Neal (2011-12, 2010-11, Chaparral High School), Brett Hundley (2009-10, Chandler), Craig Roh (2008-09, Chaparral High School) and Tim Ruben (2007-08, Saguaro) 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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