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**VISTA MURRIETA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (November 29, 2012) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Su'a Cravens of Vista Murrieta High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Football Player of the Year. Cravens is the first Gatorade California Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Vista Murrieta 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 Cravens as California's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Cravens 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, 210-pound senior safety, wide receiver and running back has led the Broncos to a 13-0 record and a berth in the CIF North Coast Section Division I final against Centennial High, scheduled for Nov. 30. Cravens compiled 84 total tackles (43 assisted, 41 solo) with four sacks, three interceptions and two punt blocks through 13 games. A 2013 U.S. Army All-American Game selection, Cravens has also caught 20 passes for 325 yards and eight touchdowns while rushing 168 yards on 15 carries for five scores.

Cravens has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth football coach.

"Su'a Cravens is the best high school football player I have seen since Reggie Bush," said Justin Schaeffer, head coach at Murrieta Mesa High. "There just aren't that many players with the ability to affect a high school football game the way he can."

Cravens has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Southern California beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

Cravens joins recent Gatorade California Football Players of the Year Zach Kline (2011-12, San Ramon Valley High School), Cody Kessler (2010-11, Centennial High School), Malcolm Jones (2009-10, Oaks Christian School), Ryan Kasdorf (2008-09, Notre Dame High School) and Matt Barkley (2007-08, Mater Dei) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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