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**VALOR CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Christian McCaffrey of Valor Christian High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year. McCaffrey is the first Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Valor Christian 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 McCaffrey as Colorado's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, McCaffrey 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, 205-pound junior running back has led the Eagles to an 11-2 record and a berth in the Class 5A state final against Cherokee Trail High, scheduled for Dec. 1. McCaffrey rushed for 1,264 yards and 22 touchdowns on 128 carries through 13 games. He also caught 51 passes for 643 yards and 14 touchdowns. The 2011 Class 4A State Player of the Year, he averages 39.1 yards per punt and has returned two punts, a kickoff and an interception for scores.

McCaffrey has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives for the homeless and with the Dare to Play program, a camp for children with Down syndrome. He has also donated his time as a school ambassador at Valor Christian.

"Christian McCaffrey is the real deal," said Wayne Voorhees, head coach of Legacy High. "He has all the attributes you look for in a superstar and plays both ways. We couldn't stop him at all."

McCaffrey 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.

McCaffrey joins recent Gatorade Colorado Football Players of the Year Joe Hansley (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jaleel Awini (2010-11, Rangeview High School), Austin Hinder (2009-10, Steamboat Springs), Bryan Peters (2008-09, Rocky Mountain High School) and Jon Major (2007-08, Ponderosa) 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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