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**MEDIAPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Jesse Ertz of Mediapolis High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year. Ertz is the first Gatorade Iowa Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Mediapolis 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 Ertz as Iowa's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Ertz 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-3, 190-pound senior quarterback threw for 2,613 yards and 45 touchdowns against just two interceptions this past season, leading the Bulldogs (13-1) to the Class 2A state championship game. A returning Class 2A First Team All-State selection as named by the Des Moines Register, Ertz also rushed for 1,063 yards and 14 touchdowns on 98 carries. His 98 career passing touchdowns set an Iowa state record, breaking current University of Iowa quarterback James Vandenberg's previous state record of 93.

Also a basketball standout, Ertz has maintained a 3.11 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football and basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of 4-H and Future Farmers of America. Ertz has also participated in a youth literacy-outreach program and performed snow removal for both his church and area elderly.

"He obviously is a great quarterback, and I have nothing but glowing things to say about this young man," said Ben Slife, head coach of rival West Liberty High. "He exemplifies everything that is great about high school athletics. He absolutely killed us in the two games that we played against him. He was never a showman. He acted with class the entire game, and I have the utmost respect for him and the Mediapolis football team."

Ertz has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at Kansas State University 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.

Ertz joins recent Gatorade Iowa Football Players of the Year Barkley Hill (2011-12, Cedar Falls High School), Connor Bravard (2010-11, Dowling Catholic High School), James Morris (2009-10, 2008-09 Solon), and Dan Hoch (2007-08, Harlan Community) 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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