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**CONWAY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Tanner Wood of Conway Springs High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Football Player of the Year. Wood is the third Gatorade Kansas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Conway Springs 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 Wood as Kansas's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Wood 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-5, 240-pound senior quarterback and linebacker rushed for 2,709 yards and 39 touchdowns on 256 carries this past season, leading the Cardinals (9-2) to the second round of the Class 3A playoffs. Wood also passed for 526 yards and six touchdowns and returned two kickoffs for scores. On defense, he recorded 106 tackles—9.5 for a loss—forced two fumbles, recovered three fumbles and returned an interception for a touchdown. In the regular-season finale against Chaparral High, Wood ran for a state-record 659 yards and nine touchdowns in an 84-56 win.

Wood has maintained a 3.9 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Conway Springs High student council, he has volunteered locally as part of gift drives for underprivileged children, school-beautification projects and assisted in relief efforts for tornado victims.

"Tanner Wood had a great season, over 2,000 yards rushing and a monster on defense," said Cory Brack, head coach of Cheney High. "He has a motor that will not stop and that feeds to the rest of the team. Conway Springs would be a totally different team without him."

Wood 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.

Wood joins recent Gatorade Kansas Football Players of the Year Montell Cozart (2011-12, Bishop Miege High School), Bubba Starling (2010-11, Gardner Edgerton High School), Blake Bell (2009-10, 2008-09 Bishop Carroll Catholic), and Bryce Brown (2007-08, East) 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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