

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Kendall Fuller of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year. Fuller is the second Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Our Lady of Good Counsel 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 Fuller as Maryland's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Fuller 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, 186-pound senior cornerback and wide receiver led the Falcons to an 11-1 record and the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship this past season. Fuller caught 44 passes for 799 yards and seven touchdowns on offense, while snaring three interceptions, recording 27 tackles and breaking up 10 passes on defense. A member of the All-WCAC and Washington Post All-Met First Team squads, he has been selected to play in the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Fuller has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs.

"Fuller is one of the fastest players I have ever seen in high school," said Aaron Brady, head coach at rival Gonzaga College High. "He plays both ways and he's deadly as a returner too."

Fuller has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

Fuller joins recent Gatorade Maryland Football Players of the Year Cyrus Jones (2011-12, Gilman School), Darius Jennings (2010-11, Gilman School), Zach Zwinak (2009-10, Linganore), and Jelani Jenkins (2008-09, 2007-08, Our Lady of Good Counsel) 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.

###