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**CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Gunnar Brekke of Capital High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year. Brekke is the sixth Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Brekke as Montana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Brekke 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, 180-pound senior running back and cornerback rushed for 1,285 yards and 16 touchdowns on 169 carries this past season, leading the Bruins (5-6) to the Class AA playoffs. Brekke also caught 24 passes for 308 yards on offense, while recording 56 tackles and three interceptions on defense. The school's career rushing leader, he is a two-time First Team All-State and All-Conference selection.

Brekke has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a church construction project and flood relief efforts.

"Brekke is a very physical player," said Matt Johnson, head coach at Missoula Big Sky High. "He has good raw speed, but he'll pound you too. He's a very versatile runner and he's just as good on defense."

Brekke has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Montana 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.

Brekke joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Caleb Kidder (2011-12, Capital High School), Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School), Matt Miller (2009-10, Capital), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School) and Casey McMillan (2007-08, Central Catholic) 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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