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**C.W. BAKER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Tyler Rouse of C.W. Baker High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New York Football Player of the Year. Rouse is the first Gatorade New York Football Player of the Year to be chosen from C.W. Baker 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 Rouse as New York's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Rouse 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 5-foot-8, 200-pound senior running back rushed for 2,977 yards and 45 touchdowns on 333 carries this past season, leading the Bees (8-2) to the Class AA Section 3 final. A two-time All-State selection, Rouse topped 200 yards rushing in every game and ran for over 350 yards three times. He finished his prep career with 6,841 yards rushing, the fourth-highest total in state history.

Rouse has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth football league and an assisted living facility.

"Rouse plays hard from whistle to whistle," said David Kline, head coach at Henninger High. "His numbers speak for themselves, but his ability to put his team on his back and carry it is amazing."

Rouse remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Rouse joins recent Gatorade New York Football Players of the Year Akeel Lynch (2011-12, St. Francis High School), Ishaq Williams (2010-11, Abraham Lincoln High School), Dan Scalo (2009-10, Monroe-Woodbury), Miguel Maysonet (2008-09, Riverheard High School) and Latavius Murray (2007-08, Onondaga) 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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