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**MENTOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Mitch Trubisky of Mentor High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year. Trubisky is the first Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Mentor 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 Trubisky as Ohio's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Trubisky 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, 195-pound senior quarterback passed for 4,066 yards and 44 touchdowns this past season, leading the Cardinals (12-3) to the Division I semifinals. A 2011 First Team All-State selection, Trubisky completed 154-of-258 passes (60 percent) while throwing 13 interceptions in 2012 and also rushed for 913 yards on 187 carries with 19 touchdowns.

Trubisky has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter in addition to coaching youth football.

"After playing against him for two years. I have to say that Mitch Trubisky is one of the best quarterbacks we've had to prepare for," said Joe Schiavone, head coach at Twinsburg High. "He has a big arm and a great pocket presence that makes him especially dangerous. His ability to run is overlooked because of his arm strength, but he can hurt you that way too. He has all the intangibles you look for in a Division I quarterback."

Trubisky has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Trubisky joins recent Gatorade Ohio Football Players of the Year Maty Mauk (2011-12, 2010-11, Kenton High School), Jordan Hicks (2009-10, Lakota West), Storm Klein (2008-09, Licking Valley High School) and Dan McCarthy (2007-08, Cardinal Mooney) 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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