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SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 **Max Browne of Skyline High School** as its **2012-13 Gatorade Washington Football Player of the Year**. Browne is the third Gatorade Washington Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline 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 Browne as Washington's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Browne 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, 218-pound senior quarterback has led the Spartans to a 13-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A state final against Bellarmine Prep, scheduled for Dec. 1. Browne passed for 4,141 yards and 45 touchdowns, completing 256-of-349 attempts while throwing just four interceptions through 13 games. The 2011-12 Gatorade Washington Football Player of the Year, Browne has thrown for more than 10,000 career passing yards and has broken the state record for career completions, eclipsing the mark of 787 set by 2006-07 Gatorade Washington Football Player of the year and current Detroit Lions quarterback Kellen Moore.

Browne has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and Generation Joy.

"I don't have enough time to talk about all of the positive qualities of Max Browne," said Tom Bainter, head coach at Bothell High. "If there is a better high school quarterback in the country, I'd like to see him. He is way better than even his stats describe. He plays the game the right way, displaying sportsmanship and a humbleness that is both appreciated and admirable."

Browne has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Browne joins recent Gatorade Washington Football Players of the Year Kasen Williams (2010-11, Skyline High School), Jake Heaps (2009-10, 2008-09, Skyline), and Tony Heard (2007-08, Edmonds-Woodway) 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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