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**VALOR CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2013) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Christian McCaffrey of Valor Christian High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year. McCaffrey is the first Gatorade Colorado Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Valor Christian 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 McCaffrey as Colorado's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, McCaffrey 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, 195-pound senior running back and defensive back led the Eagles to a 13-1 record, a second straight Class 5A state title and the school's fifth straight state championship overall. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, McCaffrey rushed for 1,863 yards and 27 touchdowns on 157 carries and caught 39 passes for 721 yards and 16 touchdowns. Also the 2012 Class 5A State Player of the Year and the 2011 Class 4A State Player of the Year, McCaffrey recorded six tackles and two interceptions as a senior, returning one for a touchdown. He concluded his prep football career with 5,340 rushing yards and state records for touchdowns (141) and all-purpose yards (8,845).

McCaffrey has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives for the homeless and with the Dare to Play program, a camp for children with Down syndrome. He has also donated his time as a school ambassador at Valor Christian.

"Christian's impact on the field is irreplaceable," said Mike Schmitt, head coach of Eaglecrest High. "We could not tackle or even contain him, and that puts a lot of pressure on your offense knowing that when he gets the ball he can literally score at any moment."

McCaffrey has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at Stanford University beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Two-time winner McCaffrey joins Gatorade Colorado Football Players of the Year Joe Hansley (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jaleel Awini (2010-11, Rangeview High School), Austin Hinder (2009-10, Steamboat Springs), Bryan Peters (2008-09, Rocky Mountain High School) and Jon Major (2007-08, Ponderosa) 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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