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**MOUNTAIN VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® COLORADO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 23, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Tidiane Dia of Mountain Vista High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Dia is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Vista 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 Dia as Colorado's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Dia joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Tony Meola (1986-87, Kearney HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11, 155-pound senior midfielder recorded 11 goals and seven assists this past season, leading the Eagles (18-1) to the Class 5A state championship game. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Dia was the Class 5A State Player of the Year and a 2010 ESPN RISE Second Team All-American selection. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Men's National Team player pool, Dia concluded his prep soccer career with 22 goals and 22 assists.

Dia has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and with U.S. Youth Soccer TopSoccer, a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities.

"I think Tidiane Dia is a little bit of a game-breaker," said Nate Shotts, the technical director of the state's Olympic Development Program. "He can make things change in a game that you don't see from a lot of other players. When it's time to get the job done, he'll step up and get the job done for you."

Dia has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Clemson University this fall.

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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Dia joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Players of the Year Cole Chapleski (2009-10, Broomfield), Alex Tarnoczi (2008-09, Rock Canyon), and Morgan Sacco (2007-08, Greeley Central) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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