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**HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 15, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Danny Arrubla of Hamilton High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Arrubla is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hamilton 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 Arrubla as Arizona'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, Arrubla joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9, 160-pound senior forward led the Huskies to a 24-3 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Arrubla scored 39 goals and passed for 14 assists, including a state-playoff record four goals in the state semifinals. The 2012 East Valley Tribune State Player of the Year and an Arizona Republic All-Arizona First Team selection, Arrubla concluded his prep soccer career with 70 goals.

Arrubla has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Salvation Army.

"Danny Arrubla was Hamilton's everything," said Dan Salas, head coach of rival Corona del Sol High. "He's fast and dynamic and a good distributor. In our games against them we made mental mistakes in our marks and Danny got us for three goals."

Arrubla has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Metro State University in Colorado 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 ESPNHS 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.

Arrubla joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Players of the Year Riggs Lennon (2010-11, Brophy College Preparatory), George Malki, (2009-10, Pinnacle), Nick Ayers (2008-09, Brophy College Preparatory), Temi Molinar (2007-08, Brophy College Preparatory), and Kyle Ciliento (2006-2007, Pinnacle) 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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