

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 15, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Nestor Jaramillo of Cardinal Newman High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Jaramillo is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cardinal Newman 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 Jaramillo as South Carolina'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, Jaramillo 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-7, 145-pound senior forward scored 34 goals and passed for 18 assists this past season, leading the Cardinals (17-5) to the South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A state semifinals. A 2011 All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Jaramillo was also a 2011 CSCISA Class 3A First Team All-State honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with 103 goals and 56 assists.

Jaramillo has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with his school's Easter and Thanksgiving food drives and as a youth soccer coach and mentor.

"Nestor Jaramillo is probably the best special talent in South Carolina from an excitement level and what he can do in the attack," said Rob Strickland, Jaramillo's club coach with South Carolina United. "He's a natural, a special talent. He can beat anyone on the dribble, has good vision and scores spectacular set-piece goals."

Jaramillo has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Wofford College 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.

Jaramillo joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Soccer Players of the Year Robert Beebe (2010-11, Pinewood Preparatory School), Emmett Lunceford, (2009-10, Irmo), and three-time winner Enzo Martinez (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-2007, Northwestern High School) 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).

###