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**PLANO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Tony Santibanez of Plano Senior High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Santibanez is the second Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Plano Senior 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 Santibanez as Texas'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, Santibanez 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-11, 150-pound senior midfielder scored 11 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (17-3-7) to the Class 5A, Region 1 semifinals. The District 8-5A most valuable player, Santibanez was a Dallas Morning News Metroplex All-Area Team selection and a two-time First Team All-District pick. He concluded his prep soccer career with 20 goals and 17 assists.

Santibanez has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Tony always had an impact on the game," said Monte Pace, head coach of rival Hebron High. "He was good on possession, able to attack with great speed and was a good finisher. He was a player that you always had to account for. Even then, you could only hope to contain and slow him down—you could never truly stop him."

Santibanez has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Furman University in South Carolina 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.

Santibanez joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Aaron Simmons (2010-11, Mansfield High School), Zach Barnes, (2009-10, Marcus), Dillon Powers (2008-09 Plano Senior High School), Sam Garza (2007-08, Marcus), and Corben Bone (2006-07, Plano) 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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