

**FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE COLORADO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 22, 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 Shane O'Neill of Fairview High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year. O'Neill is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Fairview 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 O'Neill 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, O'Neill 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 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior forward and midfielder scored 19 goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Knights (13-3-3) to the second round of the Class 5A state tournament. A First Team All-Colorado selection by the Denver Post, O'Neill was the West team MVP of December's national High School All-American Game in Birmingham, Ala. The 2011 Front Range Conference Player of the Year, he concluded his prep soccer career with 48 goals and 27 assists.

O'Neill has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and as an aide to the elderly.

"Shane O'Neill was absolutely the most dominant player in the Front Range this year, roaming through the midfield destroying oppositional play," said James Hock, head coach of Mountain Range High. "We couldn't win anything in the air through him nor could we find gaps on the ground. He is physically a man among boys in the state and has the playing ability to match."

O'Neill has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

O'Neill joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Players of the Year Tidiane Dia (2010 - 11, Mountain Vista High School), Cole Chapleski, (2009-10, Broomfield High School), Alex Tarnoczi (2008-09 Rock Canyon), Morgan Sacco (2007-08, Greeley Central), and Miguel Rosales (2006-2007, Smoky Hill) 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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