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**RAMAPO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 9, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Caroline Chagares of Ramapo High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Chagares is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Ramapo 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 Chagares as New Jersey's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Chagares 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-8 sophomore midfielder scored 27 goals and passed for eight assists this past season, leading the Green Raiders (19-4) to the North 1, Group 3 Region championship game. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team and an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Chagares is a two-time First Team All-State honoree. She has 48 goals and 20 assists through two varsity campaigns.

Chagares has maintained a 3.18 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, as a youth camp counselor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"There really are not enough words to describe a player like Caroline Chagares," said Tara Madigan, Northern Highlands High head coach. "It blows my mind how young she is, but her technical and tactical abilities are incredible. I would certainly consider Caroline one of the best players I have ever seen."

Chagares will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Chagares joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Soccer Players of the Year Danielle Colaprico (2010-11, Red Bank Catholic High School), Kaitlyn Kerr, (2009-10 & 2008-09, The Pennington School), Shannon Mayrose (2007-08, Freehold High School), and Ingrid Wells (2006-07, Montclair) 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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