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**EAST ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 9, 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 Cari Roccaro of East Islip High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Roccaro is the first Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from East Islip 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 Roccaro as New York'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, Roccaro 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-6 senior midfielder/defender scored 11 goals and passed for four assists this past season, leading the Redmen to an 11-3-1 record. A First Team ESPNHS All-American, Roccaro is also a two-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and was named the Long Island Player of the Year. She is a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-20 Women's National Team, which is currently competing at the Four Nations Tournament in La Manga, Spain.

Roccaro has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a soccer program for children diagnosed with autism.

"Cari Roccaro is a great athlete and a total team player," said Jack Bayer, head coach of Newfield High. "She has great ability and vision and can go almost anywhere on the field."

Roccaro has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Roccaro joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Players of the Year Tatiana Saunders (2010-11, Rye High School), Crystal Dunn, (2009-10, South Side), Kim DeCesare (2008-09, Massapequa High School), Alaina Beyar (2007-08, South Side High School), and Hannah Cerrone (2006-07, Ketcham) 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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