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CHERRY CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE COLORADO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 19, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Miguel Jaime of Cherry Creek High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Jaime is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cherry Creek 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 Jaime 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, Jaime 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, 138-pound junior midfielder scored 16 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Bruins (11-6-2) to the Class 5A state tournament semifinals. The All-Colorado Player of the Year as named by the Denver Post and the Colorado Soccer Coaches Association Class 5A Player of the Year, Jaime was also an All-American honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He concluded his junior year with 30 goals and 13 assists in his prep soccer career.

Jaime has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally for Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Hispanic Leadership Club at Cherry Creek High. He has also donated his time collecting soccer equipment for underprivileged children through the Colorado Rush R.E.A.C.H. program.

"Miguel Jaime was the catalyst for Cherry Creek and was a dangerous player," said Brian Wood, head coach of Grandview High. "Miguel sees the field better than any player I saw this year."

Jaime will begin his senior 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with USA TODAY High School Sports, 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.

Jaime joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Players of the Year Shane O'Neill (2011–12, Fairview High School), 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.