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MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Hadley Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

SOUTH HADLEY – Miguel Santiago, a senior at South Hadley High School, has been selected by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) as the "Student-Athlete of the Month" for May 2009.

A member of the South Hadley High School soccer, basketball and lacrosse teams, Miguel Santiago has enjoyed a strong athletic career. As a member of the varsity basketball team, Miguel participated on the 2007 and 2008 MIAA West Sectional Championship teams and served as a team captain. He has been selected as a Second-Team All-Scholastic, a Hampshire County All Star and a West All Star Participant. Following the 2009 basketball season, Miguel was selected as the recipient of the WISE Award for basketball sportsmanship.

Academically, Miguel is an honor roll student at South Hadley High School. He carries a 4.1 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. He also participates as a member of the Climate Control Committee. Outside of school, Miguel stays actively involved in the community as a youth clinic helper, summer camp counselor, and summer league basketball coach.

Miguel's academic and athletic success, combined with his community involvement, led to his selection as one of South Hadley High School's representatives at the annual Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Day Ceremony. South Hadley High School Athletic Director Tad Desautels says, "Miguel's academic achievement is outstanding. He is a committed student-athlete who always puts the team before himself. Miguel is a true leader in the school community."

The MIAA launched the "Student-Athlete of the Month" award program as a method of recognizing and honoring students who set a positive example of leadership through academics and athletics in their communities. Through this program, school principals, athletic directors, wellness coordinators, coaches, teachers, guidance counselors, and student ambassadors may nominate individuals who excel in the classroom, during competition, and as good citizens in the community. One male and one female student-athlete from MIAA member schools are selected as recipients of this award each month. Each recipient is sent a congratulatory letter and certificate from the MIAA Student Services Staff. In addition, recipients are also noted for their achievement on the MIAA web site (<http://www.miaa.net/student-athlete-of-the-month.htm>) and in the "Building the Future" MIAA Student Services Newsletter.

For more information about the MIAA "Student-Athlete of the Month" Program, please contact Peter Smith at 508-541-7997.