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Girl, 11, critical; police find license plate, hit-run suspect

By Kjeran Nicholson and Marilyn Robinson
Denver Post Staff Writer

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Feb. 13, 2001 - An 11-year-old girl was in critical condition Monday after she was struck by a hit-and-run driver who authorities traced because they found a license plate at the scene.

"Had it not been for the fact that this guy lost his plate right there we wouldn't have tracked him down," said Maj. Anthony Padilla of the Colorado State Patrol.

The girl was crossing South Pierce Street at West Canyon Avenue about 8:30 p.m. Saturday when she was hit by a 2000 Ford sport utility vehicle, said patrol spokesman Trooper Rob Marone. The girl was thrown 93 feet and landed on the shoulder of Pierce Street.

The driver was identified as Dennis McNamara, 44, by the State Patrol. Troopers found the front license plate, traced it to McNamara's address in the 7900 block of South Vance Street, and arrested him there.

McNamara was arrested on suspicion of felony hit-and-run, failure to report an accident and driving under the influence of alcohol.

McNamara was taken to the Jefferson County Jail, where he later posted a \$2,000 bond.

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