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**EL RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 14, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Cristian Roldan of El Rancho High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Roldan is the first Gatorade California Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from El Rancho 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 Roldan as California'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, Roldan 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-7, 165-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Dons to a 29-2-1 record and the CIF-Southern Section Division III crown this past season. Roldan scored 54 goals and passed for 31 assists as El Rancho also captured the Division I title at the CIF Southern California Regional Soccer Championships. He was named the Southern Section Division III Most Valuable Player. Roldan concluded his prep career with 94 goals and 71 assists despite missing all but two games of his freshman year with an arm injury. He also earned Southern Section Division IV MVP honors as a sophomore in 2011 when he led El Rancho to the first of two sectional titles in a three-year span. The Dons are 78-6-3 since 2010.

Also three-year varsity volleyball starter, Roldan has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as an American Youth Soccer Organization coach and as part of El Rancho's Blue Pride service project for which students coordinate and execute annual refurbishment and beautification initiatives on campus. A member of the California Scholarship Federation for maintaining a B+ average and serving as a peer mentor, Roldan is a four-year participant in the Dons College Bound Athletes committee, which serves as a guidance and support group for aspiring college athletes in addition to assisting with school athletic department activities.

"Cristian Roldan is certainly one of the most talented players I have encountered on the high-school level during my 20-year coaching career," said Mark Johnson, head coach of Salesian High. "Cristian has exceptional field vision, creativity, speed, technique and finishing skill. He truly is a classic center midfielder."

Roldan has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

Roldan joins recent Gatorade California Boys Soccer Players of the Year Ema Boateng (2011-12, Cate School), Seth Casiple (2010-11, Rocklin High School), Reed Williams (2009-10, Corona del Mar), Adam Jahn (2008-09 & 2007-08, Jesuit High School), and Jalil Anibaba (2006-07, Davis Senior) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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