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**MANZANO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 2, 2010) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Ryan Trujillo of Manzano High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Mexico Football Player of the Year. Trujillo is the first Gatorade New Mexico Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Manzano 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 Trujillo as New Mexico's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Trujillo joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 5-foot-11, 180-pound senior quarterback has led the Monarchs to an 11-1 record and a berth in the Class 5A state championship game against Mayfield High, scheduled for Dec. 4. At the time of his selection, Trujillo had passed for 2,940 yards and 30 touchdowns, completing 162-of-245 attempts against just eight interceptions. He had also rushed for 1,052 yards and 19 touchdowns on 211 carries. A first-year starter at quarterback, Trujillo passed for three scores and ran in the winning touchdown with less than a minute to play in Manzano's 35-31 victory over Las Cruces High in the state semifinals.

Trujillo has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a rape crisis center and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit juvenile diabetes research. Trujillo has also donated his time to a literacy-outreach program for local elementary school students.

"Ryan Trujillo is a great high school player," said Judge Chavez, head coach of rival Cibola High. "You can't argue with the success he's had. He's had a great year, especially for a first-year starter. With all the success they've had, it's mostly because of him."

Trujillo remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 ESPN RISE 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.

Trujillo joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Football Players of the Year Ronnie Daniels (2009-10, La Cueva), Troy Harris (2008-09, Rio Rancho) and Landry Jones (2007-08, Artesia) 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.

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