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**ELDORADO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 22, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Ruben Duran of Eldorado High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Duran is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Eldorado 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 Duran as Nevada'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, Duran 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-10 senior midfielder scored 30 goals and passed for 23 assists this past season, leading the Sun Devils (17-1-1) to the Class 4A state semifinals. The 2011 Las Vegas Review Journal Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Duran was also the 2011 Northeast League MVP. He spent his junior year with the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Men's National Team Residency Program in Bradenton, Fla., and concluded his prep soccer career with 42 goals and 31 assists.

Duran has maintained a weighted 4.25 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of his church in addition to serving as a charitable fundraiser to help send fellow soccer players to camps and clinics.

"Ruben Duran's work ethic is unbelievable," said Jason DiOrio, Duran's club coach with Las Vegas Premier. "Not only is he the hardest worker, but he's probably the biggest student of the game. He is always striving to get better. He's not only a threat attacking, but he is a defensive force as well."

Duran has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo 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 ESPNHS 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.

Duran joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Soccer Players of the Year Matt Polster (2010 - 11, Palo Verde High School), Joaquin Rivas, (2009-10, Las Vegas High School), Kevin Rogge (2008-09 Centennial), Steven Avena (2007-08, Bishop Gorman) and Zac Zaher (2006-2007, Bishop Gorman) 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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