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**LA CUEVA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW MEXICO GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 7, 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 Courtney Riley of La Cueva High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Riley is the second Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from La Cueva 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 Riley as New Mexico's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Riley 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-9 senior midfielder and forward led the Bears to a 17-4 record and a second straight Class AAAAA state title this past season. Riley scored seven goals and passed for nine assists and converted a penalty kick in La Cueva's 1-0 shootout victory over Volcano Vista High in the state final. The 2012 Class 5A State Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 12 goals and 17 assists.

Riley has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities, ALS research and Muscular Dystrophy research in addition to donating her time at a homeless shelter and food bank.

"Courtney Riley was a threat anytime she had the ball," said Misty Long, head coach of Carlsbad High. "She was a threat 1-v-1 and created chances for her team, too. She caused a team so many issues."

Riley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., beginning 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.

Riley joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Players of the Year Erika Nelson (2011-12, Hope Christian High School), Victoria Barba (2010 - 11, Sandia High School), Jenni White (2009-10, Albuquerque Academy), Victoria Barba (2008-09, Sandia High School), Courtney Tinnin (2007-08, St. Pius X High School), and Alexis Ball (2006-2007, La Cueva) 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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