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**CIBOLA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARIZONA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 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 Bernie Montoya of Cibola High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arizona Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Montoya is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cibola 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 track, distinguishes Montoya as Arizona's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Montoya joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The two-time Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year won three individual championships at the Division I state meet this season. Also the Boys Track Athlete of the Year as named by The Arizona Republic, the 5-foot-11 senior swept the 800-meter run with a state-record time of 1:50.19, the 1600-meter run in 4:05.89 and the 3200-meter run in 8:56.60. Montoya's mile run time of 4:01.71 at the Prefontaine Classic ranked No. 1 among U.S. prep competitors in 2013 and No. 17 in prep history at the time of his selection. His fastest times of the season for 800, 1600, 3000 and 3200 meters as well as the 2-mile also ranked among the nation's top 10. He concluded his prep career with eight individual state titles and three state records.

Montoya has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

"As an opposing coach at a sister school, I am in awe of Bernie Montoya the athlete and Bernie Montoya the person," said Curt Weber, head coach of rival Yuma High. "Despite his dominating performances on the track and cross country courses, he maintained a level of dignity and modesty that made him a wonderful representative of his school, his state and his family. He worked extremely hard to accomplish his feats on the track, and did so without any unusual fanfare or acclaim. To Bernie, it was business as usual. He was a thrill to watch."

Montoya has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on an athletic scholarship at Arizona State University 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.

Montoya joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Devon Allen (2011-12, Brophy College Preparatory), Billy Orman (2010-11, Tuba City High School), Brian Shrader (2009-10, Sinagua SH), Bryce Lamb (2008-09, Chandler), Allante Battle (2007-08, Desert Vista), and Bryce Lamb (2006-2007, Chandler) 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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