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**GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW MEXICO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 13, 2014) — In its 29<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 Guillermo Diaz of Gadsden High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Diaz is the first Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gadsden 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 Diaz as New Mexico'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, Diaz 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-6, 141-pound senior forward scored 27 goals and passed for 19 assists this past season, leading the Panthers (16-5) to the Class 5A state semifinals. The Class 5A State Player of the Year, Diaz is a two-time District 3-5A Player of the Year. A participant in December's High School All-American Game in Downingtown, Pa., he concluded his prep soccer career with 68 goals and 73 assists.

Diaz has maintained a 3.08 GPA in the classroom. The kicker on the Gadsden High football team as well as a Gadsden High cheerleader, he has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects. He has also donated his time as a peer-athlete mentor and at youth soccer, football and cheerleading camps.

"Guillermo Diaz lets the game come to him rather than forcing the issue," said Erik Tuchfarber, head coach of Las Cruces High. "And while he is a striker, his ability to float all over the field makes him difficult to mark. His willingness to drift back and defend makes him that much more special."

Diaz 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 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.

Diaz joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Players of the Year Luke Lawrence (2012-13, La Cueva High School), Brad Carabajal (2011-12, Eldorado High School), Nathanael Pacheco (2010-11, St. Pius X High School), Darren McAfee, (2009-10, Albuquerque Academy), Pat Pacheco (2008-09, Taos), Victor Rodriguez (2007-08, Las Cruces), and Seth C'de Baca (2006-2007, Sandia Preparatory) 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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