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

CHICAGO (December 4, 2014) — In its 30<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 Zach Gentry of Eldorado High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Mexico Football Player of the Year. Gentry is the second Gatorade New Mexico Football 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 Gentry 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, Gentry 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 6-foot-7, 235-pound senior quarterback completed 201-of-335 passes (60 percent) for 2,978 yards and 26 touchdowns this past season, leading the Eagles (10-2) to the Class 6A state semifinals. Gentry also rushed for 1,057 yards and 22 touchdowns on 163 carries. The two-time Albuquerque Journal All-Metro selection combined for at least three touchdowns rushing and passing in 11 of 12 games and concluded his prep football career with 55 TDs passing and 47 rushing.

Gentry has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and a youth football coach and counselor.

"Zach Gentry plays like a man amongst boys," said Ron McMath, head coach of West Mesa High. "He is a dangerous runner and he throws the ball extremely well. What impresses me most about Zach is that he makes everyone around him better. He uses all the weapons around him but he can take over the game whenever he needs to."

Gentry has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Texas in the fall of 2015.

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.

Gentry joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Football Players of the Year Bo Coleman (2013-14, Valley High School), Kamal Cass (2012-13, Clovis High School), Cole Gautsche (2011-12, Cleveland High School), Ryan Trujillo (2010-11, Manzano High School), Ronnie Daniels (2009-10, La Cueva), Troy Harris (2008-09, Rio Rancho High School) 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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