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

CHICAGO (February 5, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Cassie Boren of La Cueva High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Boren is the sixth 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 Boren 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, Boren 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-8 senior defender led the Bears to a 19-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Boren scored six goals, passed for three assists and led a defense that recorded 12 shutouts, including three straight in La Cueva's postseason run to the state title. A two-time District Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State honoree, she scored the only goal in the Bears' 1-0 win over Volcano Vista High in the state semifinals.

Boren has maintained a 3.91 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a food bank and as part of an elementary-school literacy-outreach program. She has also donated her time to fundraising campaigns to benefit ALS research.

"Cassie Boren was a strong defensive presence on the field," said Traci Sievers, head coach of Clovis High. "She did a good job of using her tall frame and athleticism to win balls out of the air and on the ground. Her touch on the ball was exceptional."

Boren has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Texas Tech University 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.

Boren joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Soccer Players of the Year Zoie Hensley (2013-14, Taos High School), Courtney Riley (2012-13, La Cueva High School), 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 (2006-07, 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.

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