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

CHICAGO (February 12, 2015) — 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 Sergio Rivas of Cibola High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Rivas is the first Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Player 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 field, distinguishes Rivas 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, Rivas 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-11, 145-pound senior forward scored 17 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Cougars (15-2-2) to the Class 6A state quarterfinals. The Class 6A State Player of the Year, Rivas is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV Olympic Development Program team and travelled to Spain in 2013 to participate in a Real Madrid Select Training Program.

Rivas has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee.

"I have been coaching high school soccer for 24 years, and Sergio Rivas makes my list of top 10 most dominating players I have coached against," said John Shepard, head coach of Rio Rancho High. "We had to game plan specifically for him, and he still changed the game."

Rivas has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Seattle 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.

Rivas joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Players of the Year Guillermo Diaz (2013-14, Gadsden High School), 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 (2006-07, 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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