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**ATRISCO HERITAGE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 11, 2016) — In its 31th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Miguel Lucero of Atrisco Heritage Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Lucero is the first Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Atrisco Heritage Academy.

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 Lucero 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, Lucero 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-5, 125-pound senior midfielder and defender scored 10 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Jaguars (14-6-1) to the Class 6A state championship game. Lucero was a Class 6A First Team All-State selection and a two-time First Team All-District honoree.

Lucero has maintained a weighted 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through Atrisco Heritage Academy's National Honor Society.

"Miguel Lucero has great technique, tactical awareness and is a true student of the game," said Justin Sells, technical director of the New Mexico Rush club team. "He is also the most versatile player in the state with the ability to play in all three lines of a team."

Lucero 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.

Lucero joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Soccer Players of the Year Sergio Rivas (2014-15, Cibola High School), 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 High School), Victor Rodriguez (2007-08, Las Cruces High School), and Seth C'de Baca (2006-07, Sandia Preparatory School) 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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