



## **State of New Mexico**

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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Contact: Gilbert Gallegos  
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2217

### **Governor Bill Richardson announces Las Cruces To host International Soccer Tourney**

LAS CRUCES -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that Las Cruces will host the "Borderland Soccer Classic" - an international professional soccer match to be held May 13-15. A number of matches between youth soccer programs from New Mexico and Mexico will be held on both sides of the international border in conjunction with the professional match.

"We worked hard to showcase Las Cruces as the site for this international match," Governor Bill Richardson said. "Las Cruces was the obvious choice for this tournament because of the enthusiasm from the community, the sports fan base and the proximity to Mexico."

The New Mexico Sports Authority, an initiative spearheaded by Governor Richardson, is joining forces with the Eddie Robinson Foundation to bring the Borderland Soccer Classic to Aggie-Memorial Stadium.

The event will feature a professional match on Sunday, May 15, 2005, between an all-star team from Major League Soccer and the Chivas of Guadalajara.

The match will follow three days of interactive clinics, demonstrations by professional players and four-on-four, youth matches involving teams from New Mexico and the state of Chihuahua. Youth matches will be held in Las Cruces, Juarez and Santa Teresa.

“When we were established, Governor Richardson said he wanted us to build on our strong ties with Mexico, and this event serves that purpose,” said Dennis Latta, director of the Sports Authority. “We met with officials in Chihuahua and they are excited about cross-border matches. This could become a major annual event with a tremendous economic impact in southern New Mexico.”

Las Cruces Mayor William Mattiace said, “The City of Las Cruces is extremely proud to play host to this international soccer event. Soccer is immensely popular in both the U.S. Mexico, and Las Cruces’ close proximity to Mexico will make the event even more dynamic. Having this sporting event in Las Cruces will attract visitors from two countries.

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