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Athlete of the Week: Alejandro Serrano

By AARON BODUS, Sports Editor
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Whisper-quiet in life, Alejandro Serrano inspires loud reactions out on the soccer pitch.

A senior forward for the Calexico Bulldogs, Serrano is sure-footed and whip-quick, demanding constant attention.

Any defender that loses sight of him even for an instant is sure to get an earful from the sideline ... because he probably took that opportunity to sprint up-field and score a goal.

Serrano is a steady presence on the scoreboard for the Bulldogs — currently in their accustomed place atop the Imperial Valley League standings. Through 13 games he has 13 goals to lead the team. He had two in their most recent win over Palo Verde on Tuesday and two in their rivalry clash with the Central Union Spartans before the holiday break.

He's pretty good, but it's almost impossible to get him to say so. He credits his teammates for every success (and deservedly so, as Calexico's not known for fielding scrubs), and when asked what it feels like to score a goal he'll admit that "it feels awesome," only if he can tack on the modifier "to help the team out."

"Everybody expects a lot from me, so I try not to let them down," he added.

That Callexico's opponents respect his talents is evident in the number of double teams he receives — and in the fact that he was the Bulldogs' lone All-IVL first-teamer last year — but he doesn't mind the former so much. There are always ways around them.

Serrano thinks that the Bulldogs are in good shape as they look to reclaim the IVL crown after settling for second last year. In his opinion they're trending up.

"We started good with a few wins, but then we lost in San Diego against some really good teams. Right now I think we're in a good situation because we're on top of the league," Serrano said. "We had some injured players, but they're back now, so I think they'll help out."

Age: 17

School: Callexico

Grade: 12

My favorites

Pro athlete — Lionel Messi

Pro team — FC Barcelona

Class — Physics

TV show — "The Simpsons" or "Malcolm in the Middle"

Video game — Fortnite ("I'm a Fortnite addict. ... I'm not as good as my friends that play all day, but after practice I get on with it.")

Musical artist — Roddy Ricch

Song — "The Box" by Roddy Ricch

What do you enjoy most about your sport?

"Just having fun with my friends."

What's one of the best memories you've had playing?

"Going to the CIF championship two years ago."

Who inspires you?

"My brother (Daniel Serrano). He was on the team in my sophomore year; then he graduated. I try to follow him."

What are your goals for the rest of this year?

"We're trying to win league and play a big role in CIF."

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