



Junior heavyweight

Credit: DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

Cosby forward Luis Rendon (left) had 18 goals and 16 assists in 14 games for the Titans.

Times-Dispatch All-Metro boys soccer player of the year Luis Rendon will jet to California later this month and join the 11 other Gatorade national players of the year in other sports for a little left-coast leisure. Rendon's trip is scheduled to include a ceremony in which one male and one female will be named Gatorade national athlete of the year, a stroll down the red carpet at the ESPN ESPY Awards in Los Angeles and a ticket to the ensuing after-party. "I'm not really scared or intimidated at all," Rendon said. "I'm just so excited to be there and to meet all the professional athletes." And why would the Cosby junior be scared? After garnering nearly every award and honor available this season, he has proved he has star power of his own. "My job is to keep pushing him," Cosby coach Mike Anderson said. "But when it's time for the talent to get out there, I get out of the way and let Luis be Luis." Not only has Rendon proved his talent, but he's shown a tremendous amount of heart and dedication. "He has more passion for the game than anyone," said Brian

Anderson, a junior who has played alongside Rendon for 10 years, first with FC Richmond and now with the Titans. "He's always working off the field to get himself ready for games." Such fervor has given way to measurable good fortune, both for Rendon and his teammates. Rendon has committed to play at Duke. He was named Dominion District and Central Region player of the year and shared state player-of-the-year honors with Cox High School's Eric Bird. He helped captain the Titans to an undefeated regular season and had 18 goals and 16 assists in 14 games. Brian Anderson cites "a lot of natural talent" as part of Rendon's formula for success. "We've always seen something special in him since we were young, knowing he would have the potential to do big things like he's doing now," Anderson said. In addition to Rendon's outstanding Central Region performance, he notched a couple of notable goals while on the pitch with the U.S. U18 national team. He recorded the first in a friendly against Major League Soccer's Portland Timbers. The second score occurred in May, when the national club traveled to Lisbon for a three-game set with the Netherlands, Portugal and Finland. The trip to southwestern Europe forced Rendon to miss the Dominion District tournament, but he made the most of the absence. In the national team's match against host Portugal, Rendon rattled off a shot for his first international goal, one of only two scores his squad recorded on the voyage. Rendon assisted on the other goal. He returned home from the trip humble as always and eager to find out how his Titans teammates fared. "All he wanted to do was ask about districts," Mike Anderson said. "And all we wanted to say is, 'What's it like to get an international goal?'" The Titans, by the way, took the tournament crown. "This season has definitely been tremendous," said Rendon, the first junior in boys soccer to win the Gatorade national honor. "I really couldn't ask for more." Ask or not, more awaits on the West Coast. "Kids at Cosby were asking me, 'Hey Coach, do you get to go with him (to the ESPYs),' " Anderson said with a laugh. "I'm like, 'No. This is Luis' show, man.'"

The 2011 All-Metro boys soccer team

DAN LAWS - School: Maggie Walker GS - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Goalkeeper

The skinny: Laws was a first-team all-district and all-region pick. The four-year varsity starter was named team MVP this season after posting four shutouts and more than 100 saves. He will play soccer at William and Mary. **What you didn't know:** "I'm a huge history buff, especially military history."

DYLAN RENICK - School: Hanover - **Year:** Junior - **Position:** Center defense

The skinny: Renick earned first-team all-district honors and was a first-team all-region pick. He earned all-state honorable mention after helping the Hawks to a 15-3-1 record. **What you didn't know:** "I use a lot of my dad's money."

VALERIY SVIDERSKIY - School: Mills Godwin - **Year:** Junior - **Position:** Forward

The skinny: Sviderskiy scored 13 goals and was named first-team all-district and all-region. He also earned second-team all-state honors. **What you didn't know:** "I am not Russian. I am from Ukraine." Many people mistake him for being Russian.

JACK KENDALL - School: Deep Run - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Center back

The skinny: A first-team all-district and all-region pick, Kendall helped lead a stingy Wildcats' defense and also managed to net a goal. He earned all-state honorable mention and will attend Virginia Tech. **What you didn't know:** "I like all sports."

LEO KOWALSKI - School: Deep Run - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Forward

The skinny: Kowalski scored 15 goals while helping the Wildcats reach the Group AAA state tournament final. He was named to the district and region first teams. Kowalski will continue his soccer career at Virginia Commonwealth. **What you didn't know:** "I lived in Brazil for 10 years, and I've been playing soccer since age 5."

TODD WHARTON - School: Deep Run - **Year:** Junior - **Position:** Center midfield

The skinny: Wharton rang up a school-record 24 goals and team-high 13 assists on his way to being named Colonial District player of the year. The first-team district, region and state pick has committed to Virginia. **What you didn't know:** "I play for the Richmond Strikers Academy team."

KARL BRAUN - School: Patrick Henry - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Midfield

The skinny: Braun earned first-team all-district and all-region honors after a seven-goal, 10-assist season and was all-state honorable mention. **What you didn't know:** "I have a twin sister."

CHRISTOPHER FITZPATRICK - School: Cosby - **Year:** Junior - **Position:** Center back

The skinny: A first-team district and region pick and second-team all-state selection, Fitzpatrick has a commanding on-field presence. Coach Mike Anderson compares the captain's leadership to that of "a true field-general type of player." **What you didn't know:** "My brother got the same exact award his junior year." Colin Fitzpatrick was first-team All-Metro in 2008.

NOAH DAVIS - School: Cosby - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Center midfield

The skinny: After four years starting for the Titans, Davis is bound for Christopher Newport. He earned first-team district and region honors, and was honorable mention all-state. **What you didn't know:** "I have the best girlfriend I could ask for."

DAN LAURETANO - School: Thomas Dale - **Year:** Junior - **Position:** Midfield and forward

The skinny: Lauretano earned first-team all-district, region and state honors. He was named Central District player of the year for the district champion Knights. **What you didn't know:** "Avatar is my favorite movie."

JACK BATES - School: Thomas Dale - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Midfield

The skinny: Bates was a first-team all-district and all-region selection, with second-team all-state honors. **What you didn't know:** "I enjoy playing golf in my free time."

TRENT BROWN - School: James River - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Defense

The skinny: Brown earned the Rapids' coaches award and was named first-team all-district and all-region. He earned honorable mention all-state and will attend Virginia Commonwealth. **What you didn't know:** "I'm going to try and walk on to the VCU team."

CONNOR WOOD - School: St. Christopher's - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Center back

The skinny: Wood was named first-team all-Prep League and second-team all-state. He is a three-year varsity starter, and he led the Saints in possessions per game. **What you didn't know:** "I was the president of the chess club."

COLSCON WILEY - School: Collegiate - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Forward

The skinny: Wiley posted 18 goals and five assists for the Cougars. He was an all-Prep League selection and an all-state first-teamer. **What you didn't know:** "I have at least 20 pairs of shoes and will continue to add to that!"

ANDREW ELLIOTT - School: Collegiate - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Central defense

The skinny: Elliott helped anchor the Cougars' defense. He was selected first-team all-Prep League and all-state. He is headed to Wofford College. **What you didn't know:** "I sleep walk and sleep talk pretty often."

TIMMY ALBRIGHT - School: Collegiate - **Year:** Senior - **Position:** Forward

The skinny: Albright scored 12 goals and recorded a team-high nine assists. The all-Prep League and all-state selection is bound for the University of Richmond. **What you didn't know:** "I'm obsessed with Will Ferrell."

Second Team

Hunter Morgan – Benedictine – Junior - Midfield
Ben Marwitz – Benedictine – Senior - Keeper
Daniel Gill – Benedictine – Senior - Midfield
David Lurie – Deep Run – Senior - Midfield
Connor Ford – Deep Run – Senior - Midfield
Raees Seedat – Deep Run – Senior - Midfield
Blake Carrey – Deep Run – Senior - Keeper
Griff Fowler – Thomas Dale – Senior - Defense
Justin Boswell – Thomas Dale – Senior - Forward
Ryan Clapman – Matoaca – Junior - Midfield
Travis Borkey – Hanover – Junior - Midfield
Roman Ogryzko – Mills Godwin – Junior - Forward
Max Farinholt – Douglas Freeman – Senior – Center Back
Nick Robertson – Monacan – Senior - Defense
Wes Saupe – Cosby – Junior - Midfield
James Lawrence – Midlothian – Senior –Midfield
Nicholas Holtz – James River – Junior - Midfield