

**ANKENY CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE IOWA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 12, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Tate Duax of Ankeny Centennial High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Duax as Iowa’s best high school boys soccer player, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Alecko Eskandarian (1999-00, Bergen Catholic High School, New Jersey), Cristian Roldan (2012-13, El Rancho High School, California) and Dan Klink (2024-25, Loyola Blakefield, Maryland).

The 5-foot-11, 165-pound senior forward led the Jaguars to a 17-1-2 record and the Class 4A state title game this past season. Duax scored 28 goals, passed for 21 assists and will graduate as a two-time First Team All-State honoree. Ranked as the Heartland Region’s No. 26 recruit by TopDrawer Soccer, he was a 2025 ECNL Heartland Conference U17 First Team selection during club play. He is also a finalist for Sports Illustrated’s Iowa Class 4A Player of the Year.

Duax has volunteered locally as a mentor for special needs children and on behalf of the Special Olympics. He’s also become a passionate advocate for the foster child community following his family’s hosting of a foster child for the past year. “Tate impacts the game in so many ways,” said Joe Sithonnorath, head coach at Lincoln High School. “He consistently puts himself in dangerous positions, creates opportunities and is a complete finisher. If we’re being microscopic, Tate is simply the state’s most well-rounded player; better movement, better involvement, better finishing profile.”

Duax has maintained a 3.47 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at Northeastern University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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