

**OMAHA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Dylan Holden of Omaha South High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nebraska 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 Holden as Nebraska’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-9, 145-pound senior forward led the Packers (14-6) to the Class A state championship game this past season. Holden was the second-leading scorer in Class A with 19 goals and he passed for nine assists. He was named the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State Team captain as well as the Omaha World Herald All-Nebraska Team captain.

Holden has volunteered locally at Jefferson Elementary School, serving as a teaching assistant for second-grade students in addition to offering soccer lessons to kids in the South Omaha community. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. “Holden has an uncanny ability to get a shot off from anywhere within 25-30 yards out and has a legitimate chance to make it,” said Tom Hoover, head coach at Creighton Preparatory School. “Dylan always made his presence felt and probably does not get enough attention for his competitive drive, which made him an effective defender as well. His desire to do anything to help his team succeed was always an admirable and enviable trait.”

Holden has maintained a 3.13 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Northeast Community College 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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