

LINCOLN SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Ansley Throener of Lincoln Southwest High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nebraska Girls 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 Throener as Nebraska’s best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colorado), Riley Jackson (2021-22, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, Georgia) and Addison Halpern (2024-25, Rutgers Preparatory School, New Jersey).

The 5-foot-7 junior forward led the Silver Hawks (17-1) to the Class A state semifinals this past season. Throener set a new single-season state record with 59 goals, breaking the previous mark of 55 and added 17 assists on the year. She was named the Lincoln Journal Star Super State Team Captain as well as the Omaha World Herald All-Nebraska Team Captain.

A member of the Lincoln Southwest High School chapter of the National Honor Society, Throener has volunteered locally at Food Bank of Lincoln. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Ansley’s attacking threat and goal numbers speak for themselves and are the best in Nebraska,” said Emily Mathews, head coach at Lincoln East High School. “Ansley’s speed is unmatched and almost any time she has the ball at her feet, it’s a dangerous situation.”

Throener has maintained a 4.44 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Nebraska in the fall of 2027.

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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