

MILLARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 13, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Reagan Raabe of Millard West High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Raabe is the fourth Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard West High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Raabe as Nebraska's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Raabe joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-4 junior forward and midfielder led the Wildcats to an 18-1 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Raabe recorded 21 goals and 11 assists, setting up a score in Millard West's 4-2 win over Marian in the state final. The captain of the 2019 Lincoln Journal Star Super-State team, Raabe missed her entire sophomore season with a knee injury. She concluded her junior year with 38 goals and 16 assists in her prep soccer career.

Raabe has volunteered locally at a physical therapy office and as a youth soccer coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Not only was Reagan a huge scoring threat, she was a playmaker that set her teammates up for success," said Lindsay Aliano, head coach of Elkhorn South High. "Her speed on the ball, quick decision-making and ability to position herself off the ball is some of the best I have seen in Nebraska high school soccer."

Raabe has maintained a weighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Nebraska beginning in the fall of 2020.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Raabe joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Skylar Heinrich (2017-18, Elkhorn High School), Hannah Davis (2016-17, Lincoln Southwest High School), Brenna Ochoa (2015-16, Millard West High School), Michelle Xiao (2014-15, Westside High School) and Maddie Elliston (2013-14, Marian High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Raabe also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

###