

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

CHICAGO (June 8, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Parker Jeppson of Lincoln Southwest High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Jeppson is the second Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln Southwest 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 Jeppson as Nebraska's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Jeppson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 of 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-11, 165-pound senior, defender, and four-year starter for the Silver Hawks at outside fullback was selected to train in Spain with the Villarreal CF Soccer Academy in November. A First Team All-State honoree as a junior, Jeppson was the state's leading scorer among defenders in 2019 with eight goals and three assists. He concluded his prep soccer career with 15 goals and 11 assists.

A volunteer at a Vacation Bible School as well as with Young Life, Jeppson has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach. "Parker had a unique ability to influence a game from his natural position of left back," said Scott Steinbook, head coach of Kearney High. "In addition to being incredibly solid defensively, his most dangerous attribute was his ability to get forward into the attack. You always had to account for his movement forward and the pressure he could put on a defense."

Jeppson has maintained a weighted 3.91 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Northern Illinois University.

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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Jeppson joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Royce Austen (2018-19, Kearney High School), Peter Novoa (2017-18, Westside High School), Ed Gordon (2016-17, Creighton Preparatory School), Ed Gordon (2015-16, Creighton Preparatory School), Cullen Fisch (2014-15, Papillion-La Vista South), and Michael Jaime (2013-14, Omaha South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.