

**GRETNA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Sarah Weber of Gretna High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Weber is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gretna 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 Weber 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, Weber 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-6 junior forward and midfielder was one of 23 players selected to participate in the 2003/2002 (birth year) U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program national training camp in January. The leading scorer in Class A as a sophomore, Weber is a two-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her junior year with 52 goals and 20 assists in her prep soccer career.

Weber has volunteered locally with Least of My Brothers, which delivers necessities to homeless people, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her school's National Honor Society as well as her church youth group. "Sarah's drive, determination and commitment to excellence separates her from others," said Digger Hawkins, head coach of Gretna High School. "Her training habits are unreal. She can do things that not many players can do."

Weber has maintained a 4.0 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 2021.

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.

Weber joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Soccer Players of the Year Reagan Raabe (2018-19, Millard West High School), 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.

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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).