

**OMAHA SOUTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 11, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Edwin Cisneros-Garcia of Omaha South High Magnet School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Cisneros-Garcia is the first Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Omaha South High Magnet 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 Cisneros-Garcia 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, Cisneros-Garcia 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-4, 135-pound junior midfielder led the Packers to a 21-1 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Cisneros-Garcia scored 10 goals and passed for 11 assists, including an assist in South's 3-2 shootout victory over Lincoln Southwest High in the state final. He was the only underclassman named to the 2021 Lincoln Journal Star Super-State Team.

Cisneros-Garcia works for his family's tree service company, and he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and mentor. "Edwin is the player that everything seems to go through," said Derek Spence, head coach of Crete High. "He has the ability to make great passes that lead to goals or to take the shot himself. He organizes everything for that team. He is extremely creative and plays with no fear."

Cisneros-Garcia has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Cisneros-Garcia joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Parker Jeppson (2019-20, Lincoln Southwest High School), Royce Austen (2018-19, Kearney High School), Peter Novoa (2017-18, Westside High School), and Ed Gordon (2016-17, Creighton Preparatory School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Cisneros-Garcia has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Cisneros-Garcia is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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

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