

**NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Will Navarre of Nicolet High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Navarre is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Nicolet 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 Navarre as Wisconsin'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, Navarre 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-9, 160-pound senior forward scored 20 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Knights (7-1-3) to the regional semifinals. A two-time member of the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Best XI, Navarre was a United Soccer Coaches All-Region selection and was selected to play in the High School All-American Game. He concluded his prep career with 73 goals and 41 assists.

Navarre has served as a peer mentor and has volunteered locally on behalf of food donation drives. "Navarre is exceptionally fast, compact and strong on the ball," said James Danaher, head coach at West Bend West High. "He has excellent touch, great vision, involves his teammates and he's constantly moving. He's usually man marked—often with two players—and he's still able to dominate the game."

Navarre has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Navarre joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Soccer Players of the Year Eliot Popkewitz (2019-20, Verona Area High School), Carter Abbott (2018-19, Marquette University High School), Matthew Comiskey (2017-18, Whitefish Bay High School), and Zak Wegner (2016-17, Arrowhead High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Navarre has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Navarre 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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