

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

CHICAGO (June 15, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Sarah Weber of Gretna High School as its 2020-21 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 senior forward and midfielder led the Dragons to a 21-1 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Weber scored 48 goals and passed for 29 assists, and she scored in Gretna's 2-1 win over Millard North High in the state final. A two-time Lincoln Journal Star Super-State First Team selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 100 goals and 49 assists.

Weber has volunteered locally with Least of My Brethren, 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 plays with a confidence, attitude and work ethic that are second to none," said Kristie Brezenski, head coach of Scotus Central Catholic High. "Her quickness, agility, effort and focus on the field enable her to dominate in games. She is definitely the most dangerous player we played, which also made her so much fun to watch."

Weber has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Two-time winner 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), and Hannah Davis (2016-17, Lincoln Southwest High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Weber has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Weber 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, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

###