

**ELKHORN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (July 8, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Gabe Hinrichs of Elkhorn South High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Hinrichs is the first Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Elkhorn South 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 Hinrichs as Nebraska's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Hinrichs joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-11, 145-pound junior won the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter run events, also taking second in the 800-meter run at the Class A state meet this past season, a performance that sparked the Storm to the team title. At the time of his selection, Hinrich's winning time of 8:59.66 in the 3200 ranked No. 72 nationally among 2021 prep competitors. His personal-best 1600 clocking at the state meet ranked No. 97, and his season-best 1:52.61 in the 800 at the A-2 District Championships ranked No. 61.

Hinrichs has volunteered locally as a youth sports coach through the Elkhorn Athletic Association in addition to donating his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "In my 20 years as a coach, Gabe's work ethic, self-discipline and high level of toughness is unmatched," said Tim Ebers, head coach of Elkhorn South High. "His off-season consistency and commitment to training has been second to none. His attention to detail with the little things stands out."

Hinrichs has maintained a 3.54 GPA 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.

Hinrichs joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Tyler Brown (2019-20 & 2018-19, Lincoln East High School), Mayson Conner (2017-18, York High School), and Seth Hirsch (2016-17, Millard West High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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