

**GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 16, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ben Beckman** of **Grandview High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Beckman is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Grandview 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 Beckman as Colorado'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, Beckman 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-8, 145-pound senior defender led the Wolves to a 15-4-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Grandview went 11-0-1 after a 4-4 start to the season, and Beckman anchored a defense that allowed just four goals over its final 12 games. Beckman was a two-time Centennial League Player of the Year. He was also a 2021 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection.

A member of his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Beckman has volunteered locally at the Assistance League of Denver Thrift Shop, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Ben has consistently grown into a top player with exceptional skills," said Jamie Scarcliff, head coach of Ralston Valley High. "He was a true leader and caused us the most trouble (on the field)."

Beckman has maintained a weighted 4.50 GPA in the classroom. He will attend St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where he will play soccer, 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Beckman joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jeff Koch (2020-21, Liberty High School), Thad Dewing (2019-20 & 2018-19, Air Academy High School), and Michael Mooney (2017-18, Broomfield High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Beckman has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Beckman is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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