

**KENTUCKY COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Nate Traughber** of **Kentucky Country Day School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Traughber is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Kentucky Country Day 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 Traughber as Kentucky'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, Traughber 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 6-foot-1, 173-pound senior midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for 16 assists, leading the Bearcats (20-1-1) to the Seventh Region Tournament semifinals. Traughber was also a leader of a defense that allowed just four goals in 22 games. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association West Player of the Year, Traughber was also a 2021 United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection. He concluded his prep soccer career with 45 goals and 51 assists.

A member of his school's Pep Club, Traughber has volunteered locally with Operation Christmas Child and as a youth soccer coach. "Nate Traughber dominated the midfield against us," said Benson Pryor, head coach of Henderson County High School. "He was playing between the lines, keeping possession and making killer passes to his attacking players. He scored an absolute beauty of a goal against us, too."

Traughber has maintained a weighted 4.06 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Transylvania University 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.

Traughber joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Noah Moeller (2020-21, Larry A. Ryle High School), Sota Ippongi (2019-20, Henry Clay High School), Brandon McManus (2018-19, Trinity High School), and Jansen Wilson (2017-18, Elizabethtown 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, Traughber 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. Traughber 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.