

**ROCKHURST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Ryder Barrett** of **Rockhurst High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Barrett is the fifth Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rockhurst 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 Barrett as Missouri'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, Barrett 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, 160-pound senior defender led the Hawkllets to a 24-2 record and the Class 4 state championship this past season. Barrett tallied 12 goals and six assists and anchored a Rockhurst defense that posted 16 shutouts and allowed just 11 goals. The Missouri High School Soccer Coaches Association Class 4 Player of the Year, Barrett was a United Soccer Coaches High School All-American selection and a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

Barrett has volunteered locally with the Regis Club, Rockhurst's service club. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer coach. "Ryder really stood out against strong competition," said Mike Gauvain, head coach of Chaminade High School. "He was very consistent with his impact on each game and the leadership he brought to the field stood out immensely."

Barrett has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Drake University (Iowa) 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.

Barrett joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jake Karolczak (2020-21, St. Dominic High School), Christian Kraus (2019-20, Rockwood Summit High School), Nolan DeWeese (2018-19, Christian Brothers College High School), and Kyle Ruark (2017-18, Rockhurst 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, Barrett 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. Barrett 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.