

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

**CHICAGO** (June 16, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Brett Perkins** of **Gretna High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Perkins is the first Gatorade Nebraska Boys 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 Perkins as Nebraska'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, Perkins 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, 150-pound junior forward led the Dragons to a 20-2 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Perkins scored 14 goals and passed for 14 assists, including a pair of scores in Gretna's 8-0 win over Westside High in the state title game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he concluded his junior year with 22 goals and 22 assists in his prep soccer career.

Perkins has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and referee, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Brett is the best and most complete player in the state," said Sandro DeAngelis, head coach of Millard North High School. "He plays with an incredible amount of physicality and speed, yet his mind is calm and his soccer touch is calm."

Perkins has maintained a 3.74 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Perkins joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Edwin Cisneros-Garcia (2020-21, Omaha South High Magnet School), Parker Jeppson (2019-20, Lincoln Southwest High School), Royce Austen (2018-19, Kearney High School), and Peter Novoa (2017-18, Westside 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, Perkins 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. Perkins 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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