

**RED RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Gannon Brooks** of **Red River High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Brooks is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Red River 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 Brooks as North Dakota'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, Brooks 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-10, 165-pound senior midfielder scored 15 goals and passed for nine assists this past season, leading the Roughriders (10-7-3) to fourth place in the state tournament. Brooks was named the Eastern Dakota Conference Senior Soccer Athlete of the Year. He is also a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

A senior mentor and a member of his school's Leadership Council, Brooks has participated in multiple service-mission trips with his church and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics. "Gannon Brooks is very athletic and a tremendous player on the pitch," said Jace Duffield, head coach at Fargo North High School. "He competes hard, wins with grace and he's a class act both on and off the field."

Brooks has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Concordia College (Minn.) this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Brooks joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nikko Helderop (2020-21, Century High School), Mason Stotz (2019-20, Bismarck High School), Telvin Vah (2018-19, West Fargo High School), and Tresor Mugwaneza (2017-18, Bismarck 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, Brooks 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. Brooks 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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