

**SIoux FALLS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Tyson Reitsma** of **Sioux Falls Christian High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. Reitsma is the second Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sioux Falls Christian 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 Reitsma as South 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, Reitsma 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-11, 170-pound senior midfielder led the Chargers to a 14-0 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Reitsma tallied 35 goals and 20 assists, including two goals and an assist in SF Christian's 3-2 win over Tea Area High in the state title game. Reitsma scored in 13 of the Chargers' 14 games, including 10 multi-goal games. A three-time First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep soccer career with 66 goals and 59 assists.

Reitsma has volunteered locally as a middle school youth group leader and plays the drums in his church's praise band. He has also donated his time as a youth soccer and basketball coach. "Tyson was absolutely outstanding the two times we played against them," said Lucas Trimble, head coach of Belle Fourche High School. "He was very confident and quick on the ball. I hardly ever saw him lose the ball from his feet or from a pass. He also had great awareness on and off the ball."

Reitsma has maintained a weighted 3.86 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Dordt University in Iowa, 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.

Reitsma joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Riley Aarbo (2020-21, O'Gorman High School), Suad Smajlovic (2019-20, Roosevelt High School), Jeremie Benson (2018-19, Washington High School), and Isaac Woods (2017-18, Lincoln 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, Reitsma 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. Reitsma 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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