

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

**CHICAGO** (January 6, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Zane Flores** of **Gretna High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Nebraska Football Player of the Year**. Flores is the first Gatorade Nebraska Football 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 Flores as Nebraska's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Flores joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Trevor Lawrence (2018-19 & 2016-17, Cartersville High School, Ga.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot-4, 205-pound senior quarterback led the Dragons to a 12-1 record and a berth in the Class A state championship game. Flores completed 235 of 359 passes, a 65.5 completion percentage, for 3,117 yards and 31 touchdowns with seven interceptions. Also the MaxPreps Nebraska Player of the Year, he added 79 carries for 262 yards and 10 touchdowns on the ground. He concluded his high school career with the most career passing yards (9,163) and completions (724) in Class A history.

Flores has volunteered locally as a coach and referee for a fourth-grade flag football team every Sunday during football season. He also has donated his time organizing youth football and track summer camps. "He has great arm strength, his accuracy is tremendous, and he sees the field extremely well," said Bellevue East High School head coach Aaron Thumann. "I do not believe that Gretna would be having the success they are having this season without him."

Flores has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Flores inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for him to enroll early at Oklahoma State University, where he will play football. He graduated from high school in December and will attend classes during this spring's semester.

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.

Flores joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Football Players of the Year Noah Walters (2021-22, Lincoln East High School), Cole Payton (2020-21, Westside High School), Jevyon Ducker (2019-20, Bellevue West High School), and Nick Henrich (2018-19, Burke High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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).