

**O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 14, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Nick North** of **O'Gorman High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year**. North is the second Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from O'Gorman High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes North as South Dakota's best high school boys soccer player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Lyle Yorks (1987-88, E.O. Smith High School, Conn.), Alecko Eskandarian (1999-00, Bergen Catholic High School, N.J.) and Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.).

The 5-foot-10, 145-pound senior forward and midfielder scored 16 goals and passed for five assists this past season, leading the Knights (13-2-2) to the Class AA state championship game. A two-time Class AA First Team All-State selection, he was also a 2023 United Soccer Coaches All-Central Region honoree. He concluded his prep soccer career with a school-record 31 goals along with 14 assists.

A member of the O'Gorman High School Chess Club, North has volunteered locally at the St. Francis House. He has also donated his time as an after school teaching assistant and as a soccer coach for special needs youth. "We didn't have an answer for Nick's exceptional speed and finishing skills," said Jeff Fierro, head coach of Stevens High School. "He had a very good high school season."

North has maintained a weighted 3.87 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at South Dakota School of Mines 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.

North joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Soccer Players of the Year Zack Williams (2022-23, Stevens High School), Tyson Reitsma (2021-22, Sioux Falls Christian High School), Riley Aarbo (2020-21, O'Gorman High School) and Suad Smajlovic (2019-20, Roosevelt High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.