CREIGHTON PREP STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 12, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jordan Igwenma** of **Creighton Prep** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Igwenma as Nebraska's best high school boys soccer player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, M.D.) and Ransford Gyan (2022-23 & 2023-24, St. Benedict's Preparatory School, N.J.).

The 5-foot-9, 160-pound junior forward led the Junior Jays (17-2-) to the No. 1 seed and the semifinals of the Class A state tournament this past season. Igwenma scored 28 goals, averaging 1.55 per game, and passed for 12 assists. The leading scorer in Class A, he was named captain of the Lincoln Journal Star Super State Team.

Igwenma has volunteered locally at Hillside Elementary School by grading assignments, reading to students and helping them with math flash cards. He has also donated his time as an instructor at a youth soccer camp. "At the end of the day, Prep doesn't have the season they had without Jordan Igwenma," said Joe Maass, head coach at South High School. "He's a complete game-changer."

Igwenma has maintained a 3.22 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play soccer at Creighton University beginning in the fall of 2026.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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