

**GRETNA EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Sonora DeFini** of **Gretna East High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Nebraska Girls 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 DeFini as Nebraska's best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Morgan Gautrat (2010-11, Frederica Academy, Ga.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.), Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-10 senior forward led the Griffins (20-0) to their second straight Class B state championship this past season. DeFini scored 44 goals, including two in the Class B title game, and added 10 assists. The returning Gatorade Player of the Year, she averaged 2.2 goals per game and was named the Lincoln Journal Star Super State Team Captain.

A member of the Gretna East High School chapter of the National Honor Society, DeFini has volunteered locally helping with game-day concessions to raise money for the Gretna East High School basketball and soccer programs. She has also donated her time as a teacher's assistant in the counseling office. "There are only a few players in the 38 years of Nebraska-sanctioned high school soccer where you could say you knew a player was going to score at least one goal a game and Sonora is one of those players," said John Carlson, head coach at Skutt Catholic High School. "Sonora will go down as one of the greatest girls soccer players to ever play Nebraska prep soccer."

DeFini has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer at Oklahoma State University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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