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## **CREIGHTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 12, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Ed Gordon of Creighton Preparatory School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gordon is the sixth Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Creighton Preparatory 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 Gordon as Nebraska'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, Gordon joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel HS, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick HS, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-04, Blue Valley West HS, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire HS, Mass.), Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista HS, Colo.).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8, 155-pound senior defensive midfielder led the Junior Jays to a 19-3 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Gordon scored three goals and passed for three assists, and he anchored a defense that allowed just seven goals in 22 games with 16 shutouts. Creighton Prep did not surrender a goal in five postseason matches.

Gordon has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and youth soccer coach. "Ed does so much off the ball and he has such a good understanding of the game," said Mike Doria, head coach of Millard West High School. "He directs traffic and wins a lot of balls defensively that turn into counter attacks."

Gordon has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Nebraska Omaha beginning 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Gordon joins Gatorade Nebraska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Cullen Fisch (2014-15, Papillion-La Vista South High School), Michael Jaime (2013-14, Omaha South High School), Michael Kluver (2012-13, Skutt Catholic High School), Gabe Garbin (2011-12, Lincoln East High School), Jake Linden (2010-11, Creighton Preparatory School), Taylor Reeves (2009-10, Creighton Preparatory School), Michael Burke (2008-09, Skutt Catholic High School), Seth Neben (2007-08, Lincoln Southwest High School), and Kyle Deremer (2006-07, Millard North High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Ed will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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