

## SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 6, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Kiki Rice of Sidwell Friends School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Rice is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sidwell Friends 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 Rice as District of Columbia's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Rice joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville High School, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo High School, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis High School, Ind.), Katie Smith (1991-92, Logan High School, Ohio) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The district's 2018-19 Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, the 6-foot sophomore guard averaged 26.8 points, 10.7 rebounds, 4.7 assists and 2.3 steals per game this past season, leading the Quakers (25-6) to the DCSAA Class AA tournament championship game. Rice was a member of the 2019 USA Basketball Under-16 Women's Team that won the gold medal at the FIBA Americas Championship in Chile in June. She is ranked as the No. 6 recruit in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.com.

A member of the Sidwell Friends Athletic Leadership Academy, Rice has volunteered locally with So Others Might Eat. "Kiki is extremely difficult to contain," said Amy Heinzelmann, head coach of the Bullis School. "She's great at getting to the basket and she has great court vision and passing abilities. Her mid-range and 3-point shot have improved tremendously which makes it even more difficult to try to shut her down."

Rice has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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 and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Rice joins Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Azzi Fudd (2018-19 & 2017-18, St. John's College High School), Aisha Sheppard (2016-17, St. John's College High School), Isabella Alarie (2015-16, National Cathedral School), and Marta Sniezek (2014-15 & 2013-14, National Cathedral School) as athletes who have won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Rice also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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