

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

CHICAGO (March 13, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Autumn Fleary of Sidwell Friends School is the 2025-26 Gatorade District Of Columbia Girls Basketball 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 excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Fleary as District Of Columbia’s best high school girls basketball player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, IL) Paige Bueckers (2020-21, Hopkins High School, MN) and Aaliyah Chavez (2024-25, Monterey High School, TX).

The 5-foot-7 senior guard led the Quakers to a 21-7 record and the Independent School League tournament championship this past season. Fleary averaged 20.2 points, 5.6 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.3 steals, recording 24 points and three steals in Sidwell’s 59-55 win over the Bullis School in the ISL final. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection, Fleary was a member of the national Naismith Award Midseason Team. A two-time Baltimore Sun Player of the Year while she was a student at the McDonogh School, she’s ranked as the nation’s No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports.

A member of the Jr. NBA/WNBA Court of Leaders, Fleary has volunteered locally with So What Else?, an organization that provides resources for adults and children in need. “Autumn carried Sidwell Friends School on her back,” said Justin Leith, head coach of the Bullis School. “She’s incredibly quick and shifty, plays both sides of the ball, and her impact on her team’s success is impossible to miss.”

Fleary has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Duke University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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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