

## **ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Chanel Wright of St. John's College High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade District of Columbia 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 excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Wright as District of Columbia's best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colorado), Riley Jackson (2021-22, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, Georgia) and Addison Halpern (2024-25, Rutgers Preparatory School, New Jersey).

The 5-foot-9 senior defender anchored a defense that recorded seven shutouts, leading the Cadets (14-4-1) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference tournament championship game. Wright also contributed offensively with two goals and three assists. A two-time First Team All-WCAC selection, she was also a 2025 Washington Post First Team All-Met honoree.

Wright has volunteered locally on behalf of the Bowie Boys and Girls Club. "Chanel stood out as a team player and someone who could fill multiple positions," said Ross McEwen, head coach of the Potomac School. "She had an excellent year and was vital to her team's success."

Wright has maintained a weighted 3.62 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at Towson 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

###