

GEORGETOWN VISITATION PREPARTORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 22, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Vivian Kelly of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School is the 2023-24 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Kelly is the fifth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Kelly as District of Columbia's best high school girls cross country player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Irene Riggs (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Morgantown High School, Morgantown, W. Va.), Katelyn Tuohy (2019-20, 2018-19 & 2017-18, North Rockland High School, Thiels, N.Y.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.)

The District's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5 junior won her second consecutive DCSAA state title this past season, breaking the tape in 18:27.09 to win by a 35-second margin and leading the Cubs to a second place finish as a team. Kelly also recorded Top 10 individual finishes at the Adidas Invitational, the Maryland Invitational and the IAC/ISL/MAC Championships. Her Top 30 finish at the MileStat Invitational shows she's among the best underclassmen in the DMV heading into next season.

A member of her school's Mathletes team, Kelly volunteers locally as a peer tutor, a student ambassador and on behalf of local road races. "Stunning is the only way to describe Vivian Kelly's year-over-year improvement after already having won the DSCAA meet in 2022," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Improving this past season by a whopping 102 seconds in DC's season finale, she followed that up by slashing another 72 seconds off of her PR at Nike Cross Regionals. These are the types of breakthroughs that top runners only dream of."

Kelly has maintained a 4.25 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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 & 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.

Two-time winner Kelly joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Marisa Poe (2021-22, Maret School), Lili Grant (2020-21, Georgetown Visitation), and Meredith Gotzman (2019-20, St. John's College High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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