

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

CHICAGO (May 10, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Lili Grant of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School as its 2020-21 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Grant is the fourth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Georgetown Visitation 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 Grant as District of Columbia's best high school girls cross country player. Grant joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10, Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-6 junior is the reigning D.C. Interscholastic Athletic Association champion, though that event and virtually the entire District of Columbia cross country slate were cancelled by the pandemic in 2020-21. Grant won that DCIAA title as a sophomore with a time of 19:19, while also placing third at the Independent School League championships. In limited competition this past season, she took fourth at the Holy Cross Invitational as the District's top finisher at the event.

Grant has raised funds to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and is the co-founder of the Visi Minds Matter club, which focuses on the mental and emotional health of students at her school. "Lili is one of the most natural team leaders that I have ever coached," said Georgetown Visitation coach Kevin Hughes. "She mentors the younger athletes and her leadership extends beyond the racecourse."

Grant has maintained an A average 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 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.

Grant joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Meredith Gotzman (2019-20, St. John's College High School), Claire Wigglesworth (2018-19, Woodrow Wilson High School), and Page Lester (2017-18 & 2016-17, National Cathedral School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Grant has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Grant is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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