

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

CHICAGO (June 11, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Pandelis Margaronis of St. John's College High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Margaronis is the fourth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College High 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 Margaronis as District of Columbia's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Margaronis joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02 & 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 5-foot-11, 146-pound senior midfielder recorded three assists in the Cadets' pandemic abbreviated two-game season. Margaronis scored 10 goals and passed for 14 assists as a junior, earning Second Team Washington Post All-Met honors. The 2018 DCSAA Player of the Year, he was also a 2019 First Team All-Met performer. He concluded his prep soccer career with 34 goals and 42 assists.

Margaronis has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach for children with disabilities, and he has donated his time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Pandelis is definitely the best player to come out of St. John's in a long time," said Scott Waller, head coach of Gonzaga High. "The entire team was built around him—he has been the main reason they are competitive. He is able to rise to the occasion in the big games."

Margaronis has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Hamilton College (N.Y.), where he will play soccer, beginning 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Margaronis joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Ryan Elie (2019-20 & 2018-19, Gonzaga College High School), Theo Biddle (2017-18, Woodrow Wilson High School), and Nico Ubide (2016-17, Washington International School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Margaronis has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Margaronis 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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