

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

CHICAGO (June 15, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Zoe Vidaurre of St. John's College High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Vidaurre is the fourth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls 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 Vidaurre as District of Columbia's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Vidaurre 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior defender and midfielder led the Cadets to a 2-0-2 record this past season which was abridged by the pandemic. Vidaurre anchored a defense that allowed just one goal in four games. The 2019 DCSAA Player of the Year and a First Team Washington Post All-Met honoree, she was selected to play in last month's 2021 High School All-American Game.

A budding chef, Vidaurre has volunteered locally with The Miracle League in Germantown, Md., and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Zoe is a rare gem in the backline," said Allison Diaz, head coach of St. John's High. "Her ability to intercept passes and defend one-on-one along with her make-up speed to shut down breakaways and skill at winning balls out of the air makes her a strong defender."

Vidaurre has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Ohio State University 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.

Two-time winner Vidaurre joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kiki Rice (2018-19, Sidwell Friends School), and Maliah Morris (2017-18 & 2016-17, St. John's College High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Vidaurre has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Vidaurre 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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