

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

CHICAGO (January 23, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Vivian Kelly** of **Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School** is the **2022-23 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 recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Kelly as District of Columbia's best high school girls cross country player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Kelly joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Natalie Cook (2021-22, Flower Mound High School, Flower Mound, Texas), Katelyn Tuohy (2019-20, North Rockland High School, Thiels, N.Y.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5 sophomore raced to the D.C. Interscholastic Athletic Association championship this past season with a time of 20:12.3. Kelly also won the Skip Grant Invitational. She finished fifth at the Independent School League championships and took ninth at the Maryland Invitational.

A staff member and writer for the *Georgetown*, the school's literary magazine, Kelly is also a member of Georgetown Visitation's Mathletes team and co-launched a public health campaign that partners with doctors from the Ngari Maternity Ward and Medical Center in Bauchi, Nigeria. She also volunteers at local road races, including the Georgetown Half-Marathon. "Vivian Kelly improved from a third-place finish last fall at the DCSAA Championships to capture her first career title," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She also demonstrated tremendous growth at several regular-season invitationals, creating plenty of excitement for her potential in the coming years."

Kelly has maintained a 4.10 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

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 Preparatory School), Meredith Gotzman (2019-20, St. John's College High School), and Claire Wigglesworth (2018-19, Woodrow Wilson High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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.