

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

CHICAGO (June 20, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kailyn Effah** of **St. John's College High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Effah is the sixth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College High 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 Effah as District of Columbia's best high school girls soccer 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 Aly Wagner (1997-98, Presentation High School, Calif.), Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.) and Kennedy Fuller (2022-23 & 2021-22, Southlake Carroll High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-6 junior midfielder scored five goals and passed for six assists this past season, leading the Cadets (10-3-3) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tournament championship game. Effah was the WCAC Player of the Year and a Washington Post First Team All-Met selection. Her cousin, Ashley Owusu, was the Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year in Maryland in 2018-19.

Effah served as part of a medical mission trip to Ghana in association with Ghana Medical Relief. She also created a summer training and mentoring program for youth soccer players and has volunteered locally as a peer English tutor. "Kailyn is one of the best central midfielders that we've had in our league," said Jim Bruno, head coach of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. "SJC's offense runs through her. She has an excellent long-distance shot and is great in the air. She's a dominant player and lethal finisher."

Effah has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play soccer on scholarship at West Virginia University beginning in the fall of 2025.

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.

Effah joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Emely Rubio (2022-23, St. John's College High School), Kiki Rice (2021-22 & 2018-19, Sidwell Friends School) and Zoe Vidaurre (2020-21 & 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 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 X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.