

WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Riley DeMartino** of **Walt Whitman High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. DeMartino is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Walt Whitman 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 DeMartino as Maryland’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-5 senior forward and midfielder led the Vikings to a 15-1 record and a third straight Class 4A state championship this past season. DeMartino scored 13 goals and passed for seven assists. The 2023 Washington Post All-Met Player of the Year, DeMartino helped lift Walt Whitman to the 2021 state title and then missed her entire junior season with a broken collarbone. She is ranked as the nation’s No. 121 recruit in the Class of 2024 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

DeMartino has volunteered locally for Soccer Without Borders, a global nonprofit that uses soccer as a vehicle for positive change, and she has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Riley is a game-changing player,” said Haroot Hakopian, head coach of Churchill High School. “She is a danger to score every time she gets the ball in the attacking third of the field. Many people assume [Walt Whitman] is so stacked with players that Riley is just one of the pieces. But Riley is the one that brings all those pieces together and makes them work up to their full potential.”

DeMartino has maintained a weighted 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

DeMartino joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Players of the Year Payton Schenning (2022-23, Mercy High School), Kelsey Smith (2021-22, McDonogh School), Payton Patrick (2020-21, Hereford High School) and Baylee DeSmit (2019-20, McDonogh 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.