

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

CHICAGO (January 16, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Vivian Kelly** of **Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School** is the **2024-25 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.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Kelly as District of Columbia’s best high school girls cross country athlete, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, Ca.), Katelyn Tuohy (2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20, North Rockland High School, N.Y.) and Addison Ritzenhein (2023-24, Niwot High School, Co.).

The 5-foot-6 senior broke the tape at the DCSAA Championships with a time of 18:01.26 this past season, leading the Cubs to the team title. The District’s two-time returning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, Kelly was D.C.’s top prep girls finisher at the adidas XC Challenge, where she took sixth, and the Virginia XC Showcase, where she clocked a personal-best 17:38.5 to finish 15th. She was also named the Washington Post Girls Cross Country Athlete of the Year last fall.

Kelly had an internship over the summer at Episteme, a startup that provides funding and a business operations platform for researchers engaged in AI-supported medical research. A member of her school’s Mathletes team, Kelly volunteers locally as a peer tutor, a student ambassador and on behalf of local road races. “As a local coach, it’s been an absolute privilege to witness Vivian’s remarkable talent as a runner,” said Desmond Dunham, head coach at St. John’s College High School. “Her cross country performances are nothing short of awe-inspiring—truly poetry in motion. Equally commendable is the sportsmanship and integrity she and her coach, Kevin Hughes, bring to our sport.”

Kelly has maintained a weighted 4.27 GPA in the classroom. She will attend the University of Chicago this fall, where she will run track and cross country.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports - 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.

Three-time winner Kelly joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Marisa Poe (2021-22, Maret School) and Lili Grant (2020-21, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory 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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.