

**SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June, 23, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kiki Rice** of **Sidwell Friends School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Rice is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sidwell Friends 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 Rice 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, Rice 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 2018-19 Gatorade District of Columbia Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 senior midfielder and forward led the Quakers to a 14-4 record and the DCSAA Tournament championship this past season. Rice scored 15 goals and passed for nine assists, and tallied two goals in each of Sidwell's three DCSAA tournament games. The 2021-22 Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Rice was also the 2020-21 DCSAA Girls Soccer Player of the Year and is a two-time First Team All-Met selection. She is the only girls national winner in program history to win state POY honors in a second sport, concluding her prep soccer career with 79 goals and 28 assists.

Rice has volunteered locally helping the homeless and combating food insecurity on behalf of So Others Might Eat. In addition, she has mentored younger Sidwell students in association with Friends Across Sidwell. She has also donated her time to the Sidwell Friends Athletic Leadership Academy, which presents seminars on how to be an effective leader. "Kiki shines the brightest when her teammates need her most," said Ryan Alexander, head coach of Sidwell Friends. "Throughout her impressive career with the SFS soccer program, some of her most memorable performances have come in championship games."

Rice has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at UCLA 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.

Two-time winner Rice joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Zoe Vidaurre (2020-21, St. John's College High School), Zoe Vidaurre (2019-20, St. John's College High School), and Maliah Morris (2017-18, St. John's College High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Rice has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Rice is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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