

**SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Pupu Sepulona** of **Saint Louis School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Sepulona is the second Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Louis School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Sepulona as Hawaii's best high school boys basketball 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 LeBron James (2002-03 & 2001-02, St. Vincent - St. Mary High School, Ohio), Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.) and Jayson Tatum (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.).

The 6-foot-3, 240-pound junior forward averaged 15 points and 8 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Crusaders (27-5) to a Division I state championship. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Sepulona averaged 16.6 points over Saint Louis' final three postseason games, including a 25-point effort against Kalaheo in the state semifinals, lifting Saint Louis School to its third consecutive state title. He was named the 2024 Division I state tournament MVP.

Sepulona has volunteered locally with Aina Land Stewardship and Restoration as part of the Hawaii Land Trust. He is also an active member of his church community. "Pupu really proved himself to be a more well-rounded asset to his team this year and made everyone around him better," said Ryan Hirata, head coach of 'Iolani School. "He's a tough rebounder, a more willing passer and a lockdown defender. Make no mistake, he was still the focal point of the team and at the top of the scouting report for everyone. He separated himself as the top dog in the state with his performance in the state tournament."

Sepulona has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

Two-time winner Sepulona joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Players of the Year Aiva Arquette (2021-22, Saint Louis School), O'shen Cazimero (2020-21, Kohala High School) and Christmas Togia'i (2019-20, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama 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, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 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 Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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