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**DAMIEN MEMORIAL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Christian Padron of Damien Memorial School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Padron is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Damien Memorial 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 track, distinguishes Padron as Hawaii's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Padron joins an elite alumni association of state track & field award-winners, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-9, 152-pound senior won the 100-meter dash with a state-record time of 10.63 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 21.97 seconds at the state meet this past spring, leading the Monarchs to third place as a team. Padron also anchored the 4x100 relay team to a state championship and was named MVP of the Interscholastic League of Hawaii. His clocking in the 100 ranked as the nation's No. 89 time by a prep competitor in 2017 at the time of his selection.

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Padron has contributed to community-beautification initiatives and has volunteered locally feeding the needy. "Christian made the decision to be more serious about his body—he watched what he ate and drank, and started working more in the weight room," said Damien High School coach Bernard Samp. "It all worked, because he had a successful and injury-free season. He set his goals and he achieved them."

Padron has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Concordia University Irvine 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Padron joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Anthony Kahoohanohano-Davis (2015-16, Baldwin High School), Kayson Smith-Bejgrowicz (2014-15, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), Dylan Kane (2013-14, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), Keelan Ewaliko (2012-13, H.P. Baldwin High School), Shane Brostek (2011-12, Hawaii Preparatory Academy), Pierce Murphy (2010-11, Island School), Jacob Edwards (2009-10, Ka'u High School), Jacob Edwards (2008-09, Ka'u High School), Javen Correia (2007-08, Maryknoll School), and Redmond Tutor (2006-07, Kahuku High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Christian will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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