

## IOLANI SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (May 23, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Micah Yonamine of Iolani School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Player of the Year**. Yonamine is the fifth Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Iolani 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 Yonamine as Hawaii's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Yonamine joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound senior catcher and infielder led the Raiders to a 12-7 record and a third-place finish in the Interscholastic League of Honolulu this past season, batting .500 with 11 home runs, 34 RBI and a lofty 1.150 slugging percentage. A First Team All-State selection, Yonamine set Hawaii single-season state records for both home runs and RBI in 2019.

A member of the Japanese National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor and on behalf of a youth literacy-outreach program. "Micah Yonamine is one of the best hitters we've seen in the last 10 years and appears to be a great leader among his peers," said Keenan Sue, head coach at the Punahou School. "We are from rival high schools, but it is always a pleasure to see Micah play the game."

Yonamine has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Illinois State University beginning 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Yonamine joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Players of the Year Stone Parker (2017-18, Kailua High School), Joey Cantillo (2016-17, Kailua High School), Alex Oley (2015-16, Mid-Pacific Institute), Noah Shackles (2014-15, Mid-Pacific Institute), and Kodi Medeiros (2013-14, Waiakea High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Yonamine also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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 [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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