

KONAWAENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 6, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Caiyle Kaupu of Konawaena High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Kaupu is the fifth Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Konawaena High 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 Kaupu as Hawaii's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Kaupu joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville High School, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo High School, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis High School, Ind.), Katie Smith (1991-92, Logan High School, Ohio) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10 senior low-post force led the Wildcats to a 21-4 record and the Division 1 state final this past season. Kaupu averaged 17.8 points, 6.4 rebounds, 2.3 steals, 1.0 assist and 1.0 block per game. A three-time Big Island Interscholastic Federation First-Team All-Star entering this season, Kaupu was also a three-time Division 1 All-Tournament Team selection.

Kaupu has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and scorekeeper. She has also donated her time as a volunteer at Creative Day Preschool and Holualoa Elementary. "Caiyle carried her team. She has good skill, can play with her back to the basket and she's effective fronting the basket," said Gary Pacarro, head coach at Punahou High. "When it comes to crunch-time, you know they are going to go in to her, and she still gets it done."

Kaupu has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of California, 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 and 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.

Kaupu joins Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kalina Obrey (2018-19, Kamehameha Schools - Kapalama High School), Cherilyn Molina (2017-18 & 2016-17, Konawaena High School), and Chanelle Molina (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Konawaena High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Kaupu also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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