

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
GatoradePOYQuestions@Fleishman.com

**WAIAKEA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 21, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Kala'i Rosario of Waiakea High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Player of the Year**. Rosario is the second Gatorade Hawaii Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Waiakea 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 Rosario 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, Rosario 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-1, 205-pound senior outfielder earned MVP honors at the national Under Armour 4th of July Classic and won the home run derby at the prestigious Area Code Games. Rosario was hitting .343 with five home runs and 11 RBI in the 2020 preseason prior to the cancellation of the regular season. A First Team All-State selection, he led the Warriors to a 15-4 record in 2019, batting .420 with five home runs, 31 RBI and 32 runs scored.

Rosario has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs and has raised funds to benefit homeless children and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. "His positive attitude, his resilience and his ability to make the most of every situation has made Kala'i a joy to coach all these years," said Waiakea coach Chris Honda. "Nothing really gets him down. If for some reason he's let down by his own performance, he bounces back quickly. Each day, each at bat, is a new beginning."

Rosario has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at California Baptist University.

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.

Rosario 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) and Noah Shackles (2014-15, Mid-Pacific Institute), among the state's list of former award winners.

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.

###