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**SEABURY HALL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 12, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN HS, today announced Dakota Grossman of Seabury Hall as its 2011-12 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Grossman is the first Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Seabury Hall.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the racecourse, distinguishes Grossman as Hawaii's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Grossman joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-00, 2000-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 sophomore raced to her second straight Division I individual state championship this past season with a time of 19:27.5. The state's returning Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Grossman also won her second consecutive Maui Interscholastic League individual championship, breaking the tape in 19:32.

Grossman has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of area charity road races and has served on her school's student council.

"Dakota Grossman really dominated this fall, finishing 20 seconds clear of the field at the Hawaii state meet," said Steve Underwood, senior editor of ESPNHS/Dyestat. "If she keeps improving and has an opportunity to come over to the mainland, she could make a regional and national impact."

Grossman will begin her junior 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 ESPN HS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Grossman joins Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Elli Brady (2009-10, Punahou School), Bailey Massenburg (2008-09, King Kekaulike), and Kristin Ali Keith (2007-08, Mililani) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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