

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS-KAPALAMA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 17, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Davis Kaahanui of Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Kaahanui is the second Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama 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 racecourse, distinguishes Kaahanui as Hawaii's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Kaahanui 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.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10, 125-pound junior raced to an individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:07.9, leading the Warriors to a state title as a team. A 2012 First Team All-State selection, Kaahanui was the fastest Hawaii competitor at the Foot Locker West Regional championships, earning 98th place.

Kaahanui has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of several charity road races and has served as a youth mentor.

"Davis Kaahanui is a very impressive young man and athlete who has made great strides during his time at our school," said Kamehameha assistant athletic director Bob Benham. "I have watched him grow as a person and as an athlete and he has made himself into a top-notch runner."

Kaahanui will begin his senior 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Kaahanui joins Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Troy Esaki (2011-12, Iolani School), Jordan Thibodeau (2010-11, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), Pierce Murphy (2009-10, Island School), and Bryce Jenkins (2008-09 & 2007-08, Leilehua), 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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