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

CHICAGO (January 8, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Dakota Grossman of Seabury Hall as its 2013-14 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-9 senior raced to her fourth straight individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:17.04, leading the Spartans to a third-place finish as a team. Grossman was also the fastest Hawaii competitor at the 2013 Nike Cross Northwest championships, earning 24rd place in 19:13.7. Nationally, she is one of only four prep runners in history to win Gatorade State Cross Country Runner of the Year honors in all four years of high school.

Grossman has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of her school's Art With Heart program and served as a student council representative. She's also donated her time to several charity road races.

"There is no doubt that Dakota Grossman is the best runner in the state and probably the best in the 10 years since I've been coaching here," said Michael Franklin, head coach at Hawaii Preparatory Academy. "She is naturally gifted and also works hard to push herself. Her drive and talent has helped to increase the level of our sport in the state during the past four years."

Grossman remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Four-time winner 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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