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SEABURY HALL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 19, 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 Alyssa Bettendorf of Seabury Hall as its 2013-14 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bettendorf is the third Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete 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 track, distinguishes Bettendorf as Hawaii's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Bettendorf joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, 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.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-8 senior won three individual championships at the state meet this past season, leading the Spartans to the program's first-ever team title. The co-Maui Interscholastic League Girls Track Athlete of the Year as named by The Maui News, Bettendorf broke the tape in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.50 seconds, won the 200 in a state-record 24.68 and captured gold in the 400 in 55.98, becoming the first to sweep the sprints at the state meet since 2002. A Hawaii High School Athletic Association Hall of Honor inductee, Bettendorf also placed third in the long jump with a leap of 17 feet, 3 inches.

Bettendorf has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time to the Maui Oceanfront Marathon and Hawaii XTERRA Trail Run series, she has volunteered locally at an election polling precinct and as part of an effort to control invasive species on Hawaiian conservation lands.

"Alyssa Bettendorf works harder and was more determined than any of her competitors," said Seabury Hall head coach Bobby Grossman. "She was willing to do whatever it took so that her team could succeed. Alyssa is humble and very appreciative of what she's done."

Bettendorf has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Northern Colorado this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Bettendorf joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Zoe Sims (2012-13, Hawaii Preparatory Academy), Charlinda Ioane (2011-12, Kapolei High School), Kailea Tracy-Visintainer (2010 – 11, Seabury Hall), Ashley Satterwhite (2009-10, Punahou School), Bailey Massenburg (2008-09, King Kekaulike), Zhane Santiago (2007-08, Kahuku), and Samantha Cabreros (2006-2007, Punahou School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.