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**KAISER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 8, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Lisa Tashiro of Kaiser High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Tashiro is the first Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Kaiser 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 Tashiro 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, Tashiro 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-4 junior raced to an individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:59.9, leading the Cougars to a second place finish as a team. Also the 2014 Oahu Interscholastic Association Eastern Division Runner of the Year, Tashiro was the fastest Hawaii competitor at the Iolani Invitational, crossing the line in second-place in 17:42.4.

Tashiro has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished swimmer and a member of the Key Club, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and UNICEF.

"Lisa Tashiro is fairly new to the sport of distance running but she has already accomplished much and done everything we have asked her to do," said Kaiser High head coach Dennis Swart. "She's a very hard worker who will only continue to get better as she focuses on her running."

Tashiro will begin her 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.

Tashiro joins Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Dakota Grossman (2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Seabury Hall), 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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