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

CHICAGO (January 14, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Amanda Beaman of Iolani School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Beaman is the first Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Iolani 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 Beaman 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, Beaman 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 senior raced to an individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:26.7, leading the Raiders to a third-place finish as a team. A two-time Interscholastic League of Honolulu Runner of the Year, Beaman won the 2015 ILH title with a time of 18:40.4 and was the fastest Hawaii competitor at the Foot Locker West Regional championships, crossing the line in 20:11.4.

Beaman has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children and the Therapeutic Horsemanship of Hawaii.

"Amanda Beaman is a strong cross country runner and is very knowledgeable about the sport," said Iolani head coach Lauran Yard. "She understands that it takes hard work and dedication in order to be successful in a sport like cross country. She has great focus, determination and work ethic, which has shown in her individual success during her high school cross country career."

Beaman 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.

Beaman joins Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Lisa Tashiro (2014-15, Kaiser High School), Dakota Grossman (2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Seabury Hall High School), Elli Brady (2009-10, Punahou School), Bailey Massenburg (2008-09, King Kekaulike High School), and Kristin Ali Keith (2007-08, Mililani High School) 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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