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**KONAWAENA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 10, 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 Chanelle Molina of Konawaena High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Molina is the third Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Konawaena 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 court, distinguishes Molina as Hawaii's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Molina joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 senior guard led the Wildcats to a 26-1 record and their second straight Division I state title this past season. Molina averaged 19 points, eight rebounds and 7.6 assists per game, including a 24-point explosion during a 44-34 win over Maryknoll in the state championship game. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Molina is a four-time Big Island Interscholastic Federation Player of the Year.

Molina has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Women's Basketball Coaching Association's Pink Zone initiative to promote breast cancer awareness and as part of an elementary school literacy-outreach initiative.

"Chanelle Molina is a phenomenal player and probably one of the best to come out of Hawaii," said Elizabeth Kam, head coach at Punahou High. "It's not only her athleticism and skill set that set her apart, but also her basketball IQ and ability to read defenders and make the right plays consistently are on point. From what I've observed while coaching against her, she is a very humble, gracious and hardworking player. Each year she consistently got better, but did so with humility and great respect for the game of basketball, her coaches and her team."

Molina has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Washington State University 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.

Three-time winner Molina joins Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Players of the Year Aliyah Pana (2012-13, Hilo High School), Dawnyelle Awa (2011-12, Konawaena High School), Maiki Viela (2010-11 & 2009-10, Lahainaluna High School), Kanisha Bello (2008-09, Waiakea High School), Jamie Smith (2007-08, Iolani School), and Shawna-Lei Kuehu (2006-07, Punahou High 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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