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**HAWAII PREPARATORY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 23, 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 **Emma Taylor of Hawaii Preparatory Academy** as its **2015-16 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Taylor is the third Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hawaii Preparatory Academy.

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 Taylor 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, Taylor 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-6 senior won the 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 15.79 seconds and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 45.82 seconds at the state meet this past season, leading the Ka Makani to the championship as a team. Taylor was also second in the 200-meter dash and ran on two fourth-place relays. She has won seven individual state championships in the hurdles, the most in state history. Her career-best times in the 100 dash and 300 hurdles, respectively, are 14.18 and 43.75.

Taylor has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Hawaii Visitor Industry Charity Walk and youth running programs.

"Emma Taylor is a hard-working, dedicated athlete with strong leadership values," said Hawaii Prep coach Patrick Lau. "She always helps the younger athletes and she's been a role model to her teammates and competitors."

Taylor has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Boston College 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.

Taylor joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kathleen Funcheon (2014-15, Moanalua High School), Alyssa Bettendorf (2013-14, Seabury Hall), 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 High School), Zhane Santiago (2007-08, Kahuku High School), and Samantha Cabrerros (2006-07, 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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