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**SEABURY HALL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 29, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Veronica Winham of Seabury Hall as its 2017-18 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Winham is the second Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runner 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 racecourse, distinguishes Winham 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, Winham joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Prep., San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The state's returning Gatorade Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-5 senior won the state meet for a second straight year this past season with a time of 19:16.1, breaking the tape 31.27 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Spartans to a first-place finish as a team. A two-time Maui Interscholastic League Female Cross Country Runner of the Year, she was undefeated throughout the MIL schedule. She was also the top Hawaii finisher at the Foot Locker West Regional Championships, placing 50th in 19:37.2.

Winham has volunteered locally with Best Buddies International and has donated her time as a youth track coach. "Veronica was a stronger runner this year than last year," said Jared Welch, head coach of Maui High. "That was due to the work she put in during the offseason, which was fueled by her competitive drive."

Winham has maintained a weighted 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Two-time winner Winham joins Gatorade Hawaii Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Amanda Beaman (2015-16, Iolani School), Lisa Tashiro (2014-15, Kaiser High School), Dakota Grossman (2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Seabury Hall), 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.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Winham will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.