

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS-KAPALAMA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® HAWAII BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 26, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Christmas Togiai of Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Togiai is the fourth Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama 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 field, distinguishes Togiai as Hawaii's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Togiai joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1, 180-pound junior swing player led the Warriors to a 28-6 record and the Division 1 state final this past season. Togiai averaged 14.1 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.6 blocks. A 2019 Division 1 First-Team All-Hawaii selection by Scoring Live and a Fab 15 honoree by the Hawaii Star-Advertiser, Togiai suffered a season-ending ACL tear during the state semifinals, but still earned Division 1 All-Tournament Team honors.

A National Honor Society member, Togiai has volunteered locally at the Kalihi/Palama Christmas Parade as well as at the Unitek Solvent Services Inc. Family Day. He has also donated his time to service projects at a local elementary school. "Christmas was by far the best player in the state this year," said Dan Hale, head coach at Saint Louis School. "He was clutch and was the difference in multiple close games for Kamehameha. He is a leader who wanted the ball in his hands down the stretch."

Togiai has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

Togiai joins Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kameron Ng (2018-19 & 2017-18, Saint Francis School), Jessiya Villa (2016-17, Kahuku High School), Hugh Hogland (2015-16, Iolani School) and Kupa'a Harrison (2014-15, Kalaheo High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.

The 2019-2020 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year announcement has been temporarily postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To ensure the safety of everyone involved, The Gatorade Company will follow the guidance of experts and health officials as it determines the appropriate time to announce this year's winner.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Togiai also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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