

**IOLANI SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Lily Lefotu Wahinekapu of Iolani School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Lefotu Wahinekapu is the second Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player 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 field, distinguishes Lefotu Wahinekapu as Hawaii's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Lefotu Wahinekapu joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, Cy-Fair High School, Texas), Maya Moore (2006-07, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), and Lisa Leslie (1989-90, Morningside High School, Calif.).

A finalist for the Gatorade Player of the Year in 2019-20, the 5-foot-7 senior guard led the Raiders to two Division I state titles and two Interscholastic League of Hawaii titles. A two-time ILH First-Team All-Star, Lefotu Wahinekapu was named the ILH Player of the Year and Hawaii Prep World Fab 15 Player of the Year in 2019-20. She concluded her prep career with 914 points, which included 79 3-pointers.

A volleyball standout as well, Lefotu Wahinekapu won her school's Raider Award, which recognizes the underclass athlete who best exemplifies qualities of good sportsmanship and fair play. She donates her time to a wide variety of causes, including working on local park cleanups, participating in the Hawaii High School Sports Association's Student Leadership Camp and serving as a youth basketball coach. "Lily is well deserving of this award, especially for this award," said Gary Pacarro, head coach at Punahou High.

Lefotu Wahinekapu has maintained a weighted 3.42 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at California State University at Fullerton 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Lefotu Wahinekapu joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Players of the Year Caiyle Kaupu (2019-20, Konawaena High School), Kalina Obrey (2018-19, Kamehameha Schools Kapalama High School), Cherilyn Molina (2017-18, Konawaena High School), and Cherilyn Molina (2016-17, Konawaena High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Lefotu Wahinekapu has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Lefotu Wahinekapu is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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