

**KOHALA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced O'shen Cazimero of Kohala High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Cazimero is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kohala 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 Cazimero as Hawaii's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Cazimero joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Jabari Parker (2011-12, Simeon Career Academy, Ill.) and Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.).

The 5-foot-10, 155-pound junior guard led the Cowboys to the program's first Division II state championship back in 2019-20. A two-time Big Island Interscholastic Federation Div. II Player of the Year, Cazimero was named the ScoringLive Division II Player of the Year as a sophomore after averaging 21.3 points, seven assists and five rebounds per game. In the 2020 state tournament, Cazimero averaged 22 points, 5.3 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 2.7 steals per game in the Cowboys' three victories.

Cazimero enjoys fishing, hunting and surfing in his spare time. He volunteers locally on behalf of community food drives and as a Biddy Basketball fundamentals program coach. He has also donated his time as the Kohala Student Credit Union president. "O'shen is very skilled—a standout who I think is the top player on the big island right now, regardless of division," said Randy Apele, head coach at Waiakea High. "He's as talented as anyone in the state."

Cazimero has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Cazimero joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Players of the Year Christmas Togiai (2019-20, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), Kameron Ng (2018-19 & 2017-18, Saint Francis School), and Jessiya Villa (2016-17, Kahuku High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Cazimero has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Cazimero 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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