

**PUNAHOU SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (July 8, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Chris Paige of Punahou School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Paige is the fourth Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Punahou 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 Paige as Hawaii's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Paige joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior won both hurdling events at the Interscholastic League of Honolulu championships, capturing the 110-meter high hurdles with a meet record time of 14.48 seconds, and taking the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 38.39. Paige also ran the lead leg for a victorious 4x400 relay foursome.

Paige has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's Black Student Union, which he helped establish. "Even during a shortened junior and senior campaign due to COVID, Chris has achieved breathtaking performances that put him among the all-time greats from the state of Hawaii," said Punahou coach Todd Iacovelli. "He combines the speed of a sprinter with the grace and coordination of a high jumper."

Paige has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will compete in football and track and field.

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.

Paige joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Trenton Wailehua (2019-20, Saint Louis School), Tanner Moku (2018-19, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama), Rey Cadiz (2017-18, Baldwin High School), and Christian Padron (2016-17, Damien Memorial School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Paige has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Paige 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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