

**IOLANI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 30, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Keane Palmer** of **Iolani High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Palmer is the second Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Iolani 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 Palmer as Hawaii's best high school boys cross country player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Player of the Year award to be announced in February, Palmer joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Parker Wolfe (2020-21, Cherry Creek High School, Greenwood Village, Colo.), Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School, Newbury Park, Calif.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8, 135-pound junior raced to the state championship in a time of 16:29.1. Palmer also was the top in-state finisher at the Iolani Invitational. His win at states sparked the Raiders to the team title.

Palmer has volunteered locally mentoring elementary school students through Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in addition to being a member of Iolani's Key Club. "Keane Palmer thrived in his junior season by finishing unbeaten against in-state foes, including a thrilling, one-second triumph to capture his first state title," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "He was the top Hawaii-based finisher at the Iolani Invitational, which drew several top mainland teams Palmer also traveled to Oregon and showed well at the competitive Nike Portland XC meet with a personal-best 5K clocking of 16:34.90."

Palmer has maintained a weighted 3.68 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Palmer joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Kaimana Cantere (2021-22, Maui High School) and Hunter Shields (2020-21, 2019-20, & 2018-19, Maui High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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