

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

**CHICAGO** (March 8, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Laynee Torres-Kahapea** of **Punahou School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Torres-Kahapea is the fourth Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball 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 court, distinguishes Torres-Kahapea as Hawaii’s best high school girls basketball player. Torres-Kahapea joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Kiki Rice (2021-22, Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.), Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High School, Minn.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, CyFair High School, Texas), and Candace Parker (2003-04 & 2002-03, Naperville Central High School, Ill.).

The 5-foot-7 senior guard led the Buff n’ Blue (9-9) with 15.6 points per game and averaged more than 17 points per game in Interscholastic League of Honolulu play. Torres-Kahapea was named the league MVP by coaches. She was also a 2023 Hawaii Star-Advertiser Fab 15 Selection.

Torres-Kahapea volunteers locally at a beach club, a hospital and on behalf of a youth basketball association. “Laynee is the consummate student-athlete,” said Punahou School head coach Gary Pacarro. “She’s a scorer, defender, distributor. Her court vision has improved a lot. Teams struggled to defend Laynee even when they keyed into double-teaming her.”

Torres-Kahapea has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Portland State University 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.

Torres-Kahapea joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jovi Wahinekapu Lefotu (2021-22, Iolani School), Lily Lefotu Wahinekapu (2020-21, Iolani School), Caiyle Kaupu (2019-20, Konawaena High School), and Kalina Obrey (2018-19, Kamehameha Schools - Kapalama 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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