

**SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Pupu Sepulona** of **Saint Louis School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Sepulona is the second Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Louis 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 Sepulona as Hawaii’s best high school boys basketball player. Sepulona joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Chet Holmgren (2020-21, Minnehaha Academy, Minn.), Trae Young (2016-17, Norman North High School, Ok.), Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), and Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.).

The 6-foot-3, 225-pound sophomore forward led the Crusaders to a 27-7 record and their second consecutive Division I state championship this past season, earning state tournament MVP honors in the process. Sepulona averaged 18.2 points, 8.0 rebounds and 2.0 assists per game. He clicked for 27 points against nationally ranked Montverde Academy at the Iolani Classic.

Sepulona has volunteered locally as part of an annual holiday food-donation drive for the homeless in downtown Honolulu in addition to donating his time to neighborhood trash cleanup in Kalihi as well as frequent beach clean-ups. “Sepulona has the unique ability to be crafty and physical,” said Campbell High School head coach Wyatt Tau. “He has great touch around the basket. He’s a throwback post player you don’t really see too often in the game nowadays. He’s a great student-athlete.”

Sepulona has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Sepulona joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Basketball Players of the Year Aiva Arquette (2021-22, Saint Louis School), O’shen Cazimero (2020-21, Kohala High School), Christmas Togiaia (2019-20, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), and Kameron Ng (2018-19, Saint Francis 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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