

**HAWAII BAPTIST ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Shane Kawakami-Williams** of **Hawaii Baptist Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Kawakami-Williams is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Hawaii Baptist Academy.

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 Kawakami-Williams 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, Kawakami-Williams joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School, Calif.), Michael Norman (2015-16 & 2014-15, Vista Murrieta High School, Calif.), Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-11, 155-pound senior won two sprint titles at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Eagles to an eighth-place finish as a team. Kawakami-Williams broke the tape in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.87 seconds, setting a new school record in the process. He also won the 100 in 10.63.

Kawakami-Williams has volunteered locally with Operation Christmas Child, the Palolo Sports Camp and the Homeward Bound 5K race. He also donated his time to his church community by editing media of weekly sermons. "When the chips were down, Shane Kawakami-Williams proved to be at his very best," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "The Hawaii Baptist Academy senior recorded lifetime bests in both the 100 and 400 in sweeping both events at the Division 1 state championships."

Kawakami-Williams has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Occidental College (Calif.) this fall, where he will compete in 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Kawakami-Williams joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jordan McQueen (2021-22, Kapolei High School), Chris Paige (2020-21, Punahou School), Trenton Wailehua (2019-20, Saint Louis School), and Tanner Moku (2018-19, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama), 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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