

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

**CHICAGO** (June 27, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Yuta Cole** of **Kalani High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Cole is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Kalani High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Cole as Hawaii’s best high school boys track & field player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Va.), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.).

The 5-foot-9, 135-pound senior distance talent raced to two individual state titles this past season, clocking a time of 3:55.19 in the 1500-meter event to set a meet record and the nation’s No. 14 time among prep boys this spring. Cole also broke the tape in the 3000 with a season-best time of 8:59.17. He broke the tape at the 800 at the OIA Varsity Track Championships with a time of 1:53.84, and ran the anchor leg for the 4x800 relay quartet that set the OIA Eastern Division Track Championships meet record with a time of 8:40.54. The state’s 2023-24 Gatorade Cross Country Gatorade Player of the Year, he is believed to be the first Hawaiian to run the 1500 in under four minutes.

Cole has volunteered locally at a middle school in association with Health Occupation Students of America, helping to promote physical activity through running. “He’s a standout,” said Iolani High School head coach Matt Imada. “He won the 1500 and the 3000 at states and broke the meet record in the 1500 by six seconds. Earlier in the season, he also ran a 1:53.84 in the 800, which is the second-fastest 800 (in the state) this year.”

Cole has maintained a 3.9 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Portland 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.

Cole joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Shane Kawakami-Williams (2022-23, Hawaii Baptist Academy), Jordan McQueen (2021-22, Kapolei High School), Chris Paige (2020-21, Punahou School) and Trenton Wailehua (2019-20, Saint Louis School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).