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KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS-KAPALAMA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® HAWAII VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 14, 2010) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Misty Ma'a of Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Hawaii Volleyball Player of the Year. Ma'a is the fourth Gatorade Hawaii Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama 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 court, distinguishes Ma'a as Hawaii's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Ma'a joins an elite alumni association of past state volleyball award winners, including USA Volleyball Olympians Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, Ill).

The 6-foot-1 junior outside hitter led the Warriors to a 25-2 record and their sixth straight Division I state title this past season. Ma'a recorded 231 kills, 122 digs, 45 blocks and 21 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .490. The 2010 Interscholastic League of Honolulu Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection, Ma'a was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2010 Division I state tournament.

Ma'a has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally in association with multiple community clean-up initiatives and as a youth volleyball camp counselor.

"Misty Ma'a is among the elite high school volleyball players in Hawaii," said Peter Balding, head coach of rival Punahou School. "She had an excellent season and always conducts herself in a classy way."

Ma'a will begin her senior year of high school next 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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Ma'a joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Volleyball Players of the Year Sarah Palmer (2009-10 & 2008-09, Hawaii Baptist Academy) and Kanani Herring (2007-08, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.