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**SAINT LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 2, 2010) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Marcus Mariota of Saint Louis High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year. Mariota is the ninth Gatorade Hawaii Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Louis 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 field, distinguishes Mariota as Hawaii's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Mariota joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 6-foot-4, 195-pound senior quarterback led the Crusaders to an 11-1 record and the Division I state title this past season. Mariota passed for 2,597 yards and 33 touchdowns, completing 165-of-252 attempts while throwing just five interceptions. The 2010 Interscholastic League of Honolulu Offensive Player of the Year, Mariota also carried the ball 60 times for 455 yards (7.6 avg.) with seven touchdowns.

Mariota has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, at an area homeless shelter and as a youth football coach.

"Marcus Mariota is a tremendous high school football player," said Kale Ane, head coach of rival Punahou High. "He has a great arm and is a top prospect and is a huge reason for their success this season."

Mariota has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at the University of Oregon beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Mariota joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Football Players of the Year Andrew Manley (2009-10, Leilehua) and Manti Te'o (2008-09 & 2007-08, Punahou School) 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.

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