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**KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS-KAPALAMA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 23, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Carly Neal of Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Neal is the fourth Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer 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 field, distinguishes Neal as Hawaii's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Neal joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6 senior forward and midfielder led the Warriors to a 13-1-1 record and the Division I state title this past season. Neal scored 13 goals and passed for 12 assists. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser Player of the Year, she is a two-time Interscholastic League of Hawaii All-Star and a member of the 2012 Division I All-Tournament Team.

Neal has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and on behalf of multiple area road races.

"Carly Neal is an all-around player," said Cesar Robledo, head coach of rival Kamehameha School-Maui. "Top to bottom, she really tore us apart. She would play defense, she would play forward, and she was an attacking midfielder. She is solid."

Neal has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Texas at San Antonio 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 ESPNHS 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.

Neal joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caprice Dydasco (2010 - 11, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), Mari Miyashiro, (2009-10, Mililani), Jayann Gabrio (2008-09 Punahou School), Tani Costa (2007-08, Kalani), and Mari Punzal (2006-07, Kamehameha Schools, Kapalama Campus) 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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