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KALANI HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE HAWAII BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 14, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Leo Klink of Kalani High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Klink is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Kalani 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 Klink as Hawaii's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Klink 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 returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior forward led the Falcons to a 16-1 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Klink scored 26 goals and passed for eight assists. The two-time Honolulu Advertiser Player of the Year and two-time Oahu Interscholastic Association East Player of the Year, Klink scored six goals and passed for two assists in four postseason games and was named the 2013 Division I State Tournament Most Outstanding Player. He concluded his prep soccer career with 65 goals.

Klink has maintained a 3.18 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at the Honolulu Marathon and with the Na Lei Aloha Foundation to share the Aloha spirit throughout the islands.

"Leo carried his team to the Hawaii state championship," said Jeff Yamamoto, head coach of Mililani High. "He singlehandedly won the final game against Punahou. He is strong and fast and good at going at defenses. He is an all-around great striker."

Klink has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of California-Irvine this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Two time winner Klink joins Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Players of the Year Scott Granger (2010–11, Punahou School), Cody Sullivan, (2009–10, Mid-Pacific Institute), Nick Goo (2008–09, Iolani School), Zane Dydasco (2007–08, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama), and Kekoa Osorio (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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.