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## **IOLANI SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 21, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jill Shimabuku of Iolani School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Shimabuku is the first Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Iolani 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 Shimabuku 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, Shimabuku 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-5 senior midfielder led the Raiders to a 14-1-1 record and the Division I state title this past season. Shimabuku scored eight goals and passed for 22 assists, including a pair of goals in a 3-1 win over Punahou School in the state title game. Shimabuku tallied five goals and three assists in three postseason games and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Division I state tournament. She concluded her prep soccer career with 23 goals.

Shimabuku has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, with the Special Olympics, at the Honolulu Marathon and as a youth soccer coach.

"Jill calmly handles the ball and controls the flow of the game for Iolani," said Greg Van Cantfort, the athletic director at Kalani High. "I was impressed by her pinpoint accuracy in passing in tight situations and her leadership on the field. She is the complete package."

Shimabuku will attend the University of Puget Sound in Washington this fall, where she will play soccer.

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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Shimabuku joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Players of the Year Carly Neal (2011-12, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School), 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 (2006-2007, 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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