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**PUNAHOU SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 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 Jaci Young of Punahou School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Hawaii Softball Player of the Year. Young is the third Gatorade Hawaii Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Punahou 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 Young as Hawaii's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Young joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-5 senior right-handed pitcher and infielder led the Buff n' Blue (19-3) to the Division I state championship this past season, winning all four of her starts in the state tournament. Young posted an 18-3 record overall with a 1.32 ERA and 159 strikeouts in 133 innings pitched. The Hawaii High School Athletic Association Division I State Tournament Most Outstanding Player, she also batted .404, chipping in eight stolen bases.

Young has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. An active parishioner in her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and the Salvation Army in addition to donating her time as a classroom tutor and summer camp counselor.

"Jaci Young is very effective at keeping hitters off-balance and frustrated," said Guy Shinsato, pitching coach at Kaiser High. "She is poised and confident but not cocky. Her teammates feed off her energy and she is a true leader on their team. She exemplifies all the qualities that a student athlete should possess."

Young will attend the University of Puget Sound this fall, where she will play softball.

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.

Young joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Softball Players of the Year Keiki Carlos (2011-12 & 2010-11, Mid-Pacific Institute), Katie Manuma (2009-10, Campbell), Brittney Guro (2008-09, Iolani School), Amber Waracka (2007-08, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama), and Nicole Alconcel (2006 - 07, Baldwin) 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.

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