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

CHICAGO (May 20, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kiani Halushka of Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Halushka is the third 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 Halushka 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, Halushka 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-4 senior forward led the Warriors to a 20-1-1 record and the Division I state title this past season. Halushka scored 24 goals and passed for six assists, including a hat trick in a 4-0 win over Aiea High in the state final. She tallied five goals and an assist in four postseason games and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Division I state tournament. The Honolulu Star Advertiser Player of the Year, she concluded her prep soccer career with 35 goals.

Halushka has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with Honolulu's annual Great Aloha Run, as part of area beautification projects and with the Special Olympics.

"Kiani has displayed great composure and leadership throughout the season and provided a tenacious work ethic her team feeds off of," said Ray Akiona, head coach of Mililani High. "She has great speed, good touch on the ball and endless determination to finish plays. Her presence on the field puts defenses into immediate alert mode."

Halushka has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Hawaii 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 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.

Halushka joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jill Shimabuku (2012-13, Iolani School), 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.

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