

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

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

CHICAGO (May 11, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Nai'a Graham of Kailua High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Graham is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Kailua 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 Graham 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, Graham 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 6-foot, 165-pound senior forward scored 28 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Surfriders (9-6) to the Division II state quarterfinals. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV Olympic Development Program team, Graham was the 2015 ScoringLive State Offensive Player of the Year and a Honolulu Advertiser First Team All-State selection.

Graham has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of community-beautification projects.

"Nai'a Graham was very dangerous," said Spencer Mochado, head coach of Moanalua High. "You had to double-team him every place he went because they always tried to get the ball to him. Kailua would not have gotten as far as they did without him."

Graham has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Notre Dame de Namur University in California beginning 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.

Graham joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Soccer Players of the Year KJ Ahlo (2013-14, Iolani School), Leo Klink (2012-13 & 2011-12, Kalani High School), 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

###