

## PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 13, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Sunshine Fontes of Pearl City High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year**. Fontes is the second Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pearl City 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 Fontes 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 June, Fontes joins an elite alumni association of past state soccer award-winners, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

Also the state's 2015-16 Gatorade Hawaii Soccer Player of the Year, the 5-foot-4 senior forward, midfielder and defender scored 24 goals this past season, leading the Chargers (11-4-1) to the Division I state quarterfinals. Fontes injured her knee scoring the winning goal in the Oahu Interscholastic Association Championship semifinals and missed Pearl City's final four games of the season. The leading scorer in U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team history with 22 international goals, she is ranked as the nation's No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2019 by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Fontes has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and mentor. "Sunshine is always a threat as long as she is on the field," said Brent Murakami, head coach of Waipahu High. "She is a natural goal-scorer, one we haven't seen in a while here in Hawaii. Her team was 10 times better when she played."

Fontes has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at UCLA 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Two-time winner Fontes joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kaile Halvorsen (2017-18, Kaiser High School), Emi Higgins (2016-17, Hawaii Preparatory Academy), Kristen Hori (2014-15, Iolani School) and Kiani Halushka (2013-14, Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Fontes also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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