

**KING KEKAULIKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Teani Arakawa of King Kekaulike High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Arakawa is the first Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from King Kekaulike 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 Arakawa 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, Arakawa joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 of 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.).

The 5-foot-1 junior midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Na Alii (11-1-1) to the Division 1 state championship game. The two-time Maui Interscholastic League Player of the Year, Arakawa was the ScoringLive Offensive Player of the Year in 2019-20 and was named to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser All-State First Team.

Arakawa has volunteered locally on behalf of stadium cleanup and beautification efforts as well as the Makawao Elementary School and Waipoli Hydroponic Greens farm. "Teani Arakawa is a very skilled player with a great understanding of the game," said Sky Delaney, head coach at Lahainaluna High. "She is fearless and tenacious. She'll battle for every ball and make the right decision in compressed areas, with two or three players pressuring her. Any team would be very lucky to have her."

Arakawa has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Arakawa joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sunshine Fontes (2018-19, Pearl City High School), Kaile Halvorsen (2017-18, Kaiser High School), Emi Higgins (2016-17, Hawaii Preparatory Academy), Sunshine Fontes (2015-16, Pearl City High School), 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.

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](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).