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**Contact: Julie Mason (312-932-2808)
Josh Holland (312-932-2823)**

**KALANI HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 7, 2008) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in partnership with *RISE Magazine*, today announced **Tani Costa of Kalani High School** as its **2007-08 Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Player of the Year**.

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 Costa as Hawaii's best high school girls soccer player. Costa, along with her fellow spring soccer season Gatorade State Players of the Year, is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May.

The 5-foot-8 junior forward scored 23 goals this season, leading the Falcons (13-4-1) to the Oahu Interscholastic Association Tournament semifinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Costa has totaled 48 goals in her career. She is also a member of the United States Soccer Federation Under-17 Women's National Team and was named an All-Star at the prestigious 2007 adidas ESP Camp.

Costa has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to volunteering as a youth soccer instructor at area clinics, she participates in multiple community-service initiatives, donating her time to underprivileged children with healthcare needs as part of Project Hope, caring for sick animals at local shelters and assisting the elderly on behalf of Kalani High.

"She is a goal scorer—she is extremely talented at receiving the ball with her back to the goal, turning and getting a shot off," said Kalani High Head Coach Myles Arakawa. "She shoots well with both feet and has really good range and accuracy. She works hard to get the ball and it's really difficult for the other team to get the ball away once she has it."

Costa will begin her senior year of high school next fall and has verbally committed to a soccer scholarship at Penn State University in 2009.

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. The selection process is administered by *RISE Magazine*, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Costa joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Girls Soccer Players of the Year Mari Punzal (2006-07, Kamehameha Schools, Kapalama Campus), Markee Nobriga (2005-06, Kamehameha Schools), and Kelsey Baker (2004-05, Punahou School) among the state's list of former award winners.

For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit gatorade.com/playeroftheyear.

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