

Athlete of the Month

Malia Gacutan

By Amy Lawson

It is not every day that you meet a Malia Gacutan. This month's featured athlete is the total package: she is driven, intelligent, kind, beautiful, humble, and extremely athletic. Bluntly put, she is the type of young woman you hope your daughter grows up to become.

A recent 2017 graduate from Punahou School, Malia's high school career was a resounding success. She was a contributing member of the paddling, volleyball, swimming, kayaking, and water polo programs.

She received various accolades in her numerous athletic endeavors, including two Most Inspirational Player awards in paddling, the Brad Yim Water Polo Award, and the Senior Plaque and Senior Scholar-Athlete awards. But she has more than just brawn. During her junior year, Malia was inducted into the National Honor Society and this year she graduated with honors and a high school GPA of 3.8.

An Outrigger member since the age of 10, Malia grew up paddling in the Club's youth program. After concentrating on water polo for most of her high school summers, she joined the Open Women's paddling program in 2016, and paddled her first Na Wahine O Ke Kai at the tender age of 17. Malia sat in every seat (one to six).

A true competitor, Malia recalled that "when we crossed that finish line and actually stopped paddling, I knew I wanted to do it again. I wanted to feel the anticipation, the focus, the pain, the love, and everything that came with it again."



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This fall, Malia will be attending Villanova University in Pennsylvania on an academic scholarship, where she has committed to playing NCAA Division I water polo on the women's team. Congratulations, Malia! We are so proud to call you one of our own.