As we go through life we meet people along the way who don’t just pass us by, but become a part of who we are. These people are a special kind of breed. They encourage you yet push you to your full potential. They bring out what’s inside of you and mold you into a person that you’re proud to be. These people don’t know the profound impact they have. We all know someone that cared enough about us to guide us in the right direction. Coach Nate, you’re that someone to me.

When we first met, I had an overwhelming fear. It was my first JV tryouts for basketball. My heart raced through me as you made cuts. The moment you called my name, a hope sparked in me. It was the first time you gave me inspiration.

As I look back, it wasn’t just your coaching that inspired me, it was who you were. Your personality always shined through. As coach, you were always honest with the team. We knew you treated us like equals, something most adults didn’t think we deserved. You showed us that together we had the power to decide our outcome in any challenge.

With your encouragement I pushed myself to be the person you saw. I didn’t understand why you pushed the team so hard. I guess you were able to see a potential that only someone who believed in us could.

What makes you different is you’re not just a coach, but a friend too. Ask any player you ever coached, they would agree that you’ve always been there to support us. We could talk to you and you really listen. You never showed superiority or judgment. Thank you not only for who you are, but for the person you’ve helped me become.

Sara is this month’s winner of the Lex Brodie’s Tire Company Foundation’s “Thank You...Very Much” award!

“Thank You...Very Much.” These are the four most important words you will ever say, or will ever hear.

It’s very rewarding to say, “Thank you...very much!”
Sara received a $100 Shopping Spree! Coach Nate received a 2-night stay at the beautiful Sheraton Moana Surfrider, courtesy of Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, Waikiki. And the MidPac JV Basketball Team received $250 in Sara’s name as her favorite charity.

Students throughout Hawaii are invited to write and thank someone who has influenced them in a positive way and to choose a non-profit organization they would like to help. Each month, we’ll feature one of the best of these letters so you can enjoy the inspirational stories from Hawaii’s keiki as they say,

“Thank You...Very Much!”

You will need to enter through your school, so ask your teacher about the contest.
For more information go to www.LexBrodies.com

Sara Soken

From left to right: Scott Williams, General Manager, Lex Brodie’s Tire Company; Sara Soken, winning student from Mid-Pacific Institute; Coach Nate; Front: Perry & Price, KSSK

“Thank You...Very Much!”

Scott Williams, President | Lex Brodie’s Tire Company Foundation