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**BISHOP MOORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Marlie Monserez of Bishop Moore Catholic High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year. Monserez is the second Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Moore Catholic 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 Monserez as Florida's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Monserez joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert HS, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public HS, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View HS, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas HS, Fla.).

The 5-foot-11 senior setter and outside hitter recorded 329 kills, 284 digs and 227 assists this past season, leading the Hornets to the Class 6A state final. The Class 6A Player of the Year, Monserez was also named Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Volleyball and is ranked as the nation's No. 24 Senior Ace by PrepVolleyball.com.

A member of her school's Leadership Team and Student Council, Monserez has volunteered locally on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a food pantry and youth volleyball camps. "Monserez is super-athletic, super-fast and she has a great mind for the game," said Jeff Reavis, head coach at Trinity Catholic High. "She understands everything that's happening on the court and affects the game in so many ways."

Monserez has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Monserez joins recent Gatorade Florida Volleyball Players of the Year Stephanie Samedy (2016-17, East Ridge High School), Jac'cara Walker (2015-16, P.K. Yonge), Courtney Furlong (2014-15, Oviedo High School), Christina Ambrose (2013-14, Winter Park High School), Lindsey Owens (2012-13, Bishop Moore High School), Jordan Burgess (2011-12 & 2010-11, Berkeley Preparatory School), Maddie Martin (2009-10, H.B. Plant High School), Jessica Yingling (2008-09, Timber Creek High School) and Kellie Catanach (2007-08, H.B. Plant High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Monserez will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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