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**IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 14, 2011) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Nia Reed of Immaculate Heart Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year. Reed is the second Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Immaculate Heart Academy.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Reed as New Jersey's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Reed joins an elite alumni association of past state volleyball award winners, including USA Volleyball players Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, Ill).

The 6-foot-2 sophomore middle blocker led the Blue Eagles to a 32-1 record and both the Non-Public state title and the Tournament of Champions title this past season. Reed recorded 233 kills, 59 blocks and 29 digs while posting a hitting percentage of .544 and a kill percentage of .637. An All-North Jersey selection, Reed missed 11 matches with a broken wrist but returned for the postseason where she recorded 66 kills in six matches with a .604 hitting percentage and a .688 kill percentage.

Reed has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. She organized a clothing and equipment drive to benefit youth volleyball players in the Dominican Republic and has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Nia Reed is an incredible volleyball player," said Jaime Marzocchi, head coach of Paramus Catholic High. "We played IHA three times this year and lost all three—she was a main contributor to their success. She stands out among her high school peers as a great player simply because she can put a ball down."

Reed will begin her junior year of high school next 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 ESPNHS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Reed joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Players of the Year Aiyana Whitney (2010-11, Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan), Ariel Scott (2009-10, Immaculate Heart Academy) and Ariel Scott (2008-09, Immaculate Heart Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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