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**COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2012) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Marina Rose of Coventry High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year. Rose is the first Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coventry 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 Rose as Connecticut's best high school volleyball player. Rose joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter led the Patriots (24-0) to a seventh consecutive Class S state championship this past season. A three-time Class S First Team All-State selection as named by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association, Rose amassed 447 kills, 409 digs, 99 service aces, 34 blocks and 10 assists. She compiled a .708 hitting percentage and .781 kill percentage. In a Class S state championship sweep of Holy Cross, she recorded 17 kills, 16 digs, three blocks, two service aces and two assists, earning tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Also a basketball standout, Rose has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach, she has volunteered on behalf of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, the Covenant Soup Kitchen, Operation Shoebox serving America's armed forces and the 30 Hour Famine end-hunger initiative.

"She is so, so smooth a player in all aspects of the game," said Paul Thees, head coach of rival Trumbull High. "It's amazing. Her team was No. 1 in the state for a reason. That's the main reason. That kid. She was just unbelievable. Everything she did—in the All-Star Game, too—was just so smooth."

Rose has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Providence College beginning in the fall of 2013.

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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Rose joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Players of the Year Kyley Reed (2011-12, Rocky Hill High School), Madison McCaffery (2010-11, Fairfield Ludlowe High School), Tessa Smolinski (2009-10, RHAM), Erika Videtto (2008-09, RHAM) and Janice Ehorn (2007-08, Amity Regional) 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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