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

CHICAGO (December 12, 2012) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Nia Reed of Immaculate Heart Academy as its 2012-13 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 field, distinguishes Reed as New Jersey's best high school volleyball player. Reed 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 state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2 junior middle blocker led the Blue Eagles to a 34-4 record and both the Non-Public state title and the Tournament of Champions crown this past season. Reed recorded 525 kills, 122 digs, 100 blocks and 42 service aces while posting a hitting percentage of .536 and a kill percentage of .653. The 2011 Newark Star-Ledger Player of the Year, she played with the USA Volleyball Girls Youth A2 team during the summer of 2012 and will participate in a USA Volleyball Holiday camp later this month.

Reed has maintained a B-plus average 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 as a youth volleyball coach.

"Nia had an outstanding year," said Bill Lee, Reed's club coach with DIGS Volleyball. "She improved in every category. Last year she played with raw talent. This year she refined her skills, adding finesse and touch along with power."

Reed has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Penn State University beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Reed joins Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Players of the Year Aiyana Whitney (2010-11, Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan), Ariel Scott (2009-10 & 2008-09, Immaculate Heart Academy), and Amanda Alles (2007-08, Hunterdon Central) 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.

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