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**PITTSFORD SUTHERLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Luisa Schirmer of Pittsford Sutherland High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year. Schirmer is the first Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pittsford Sutherland 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 Schirmer as New York's best high school volleyball player. Schirmer 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 6-foot-2 junior outside hitter recorded 588 kills, 489 digs, 114 service aces, and 71 blocks this past season, leading Knights (38-7-3) to the Class A state finals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Schirmer was a starter for the 2012 U.S. Girls' Youth National Team that won gold at the NORCECA Girls' Youth Continental Championship in Tijuana, Mexico.

Schirmer has maintained an A average in the classroom. Vice president of her class and also a talented musician, she has helped raise funds for breast cancer awareness.

"Schirmer is a tremendous all-around player," said Andrew Solomon, head coach at Penfield High. "She hits over the top of blocks and she also plays great defense. You can't really stop her, you can only slow her down."

Schirmer will begin her senior 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 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.

Schirmer joins recent Gatorade New York Volleyball Players of the Year Melissa Rigo (2011-12, Elwood-John H. Glenn High School), Heather Feldman (2010-11, Eden High School), Mary Cushman (2009-10 & 2008-09, West Irondequoit), and Erin Little (2007-08, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake) 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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