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

CHICAGO (December 12, 2013) — In its 29th 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 2013-14 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 two-time returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2 senior middle blocker led the Blue Eagles to a 46-2 record, a seventh straight Non-Public state title and a third straight Tournament of Champions title this past season. Reed recorded 510 kills, 199 digs, 110 blocks and 53 service aces while posting a hitting percentage of .557 and a kill percentage of .651. A 2013 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour First Team All-American, Reed is a three-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,394 kills, 269 blocks, a .522 hitting percentage and a .630 kill percentage.

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 shelter for the needy and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Nia Reed was the toughest player we faced this season," said Kirk Hissner, head coach of North Hunterdon High. "She would hit over our strongest blocks. She plays all-around so she gives them an attack in the back row, too."

Reed has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Penn State University beginning 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.

Three-time winner 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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