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**PITTSFORD SUTHERLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2013) — In its 29<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 2013-14 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 senior outside hitter led the Knights to a 44-2 record and the Class A state title this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Schirmer recorded 508 kills, 465 digs, 114 service aces and 33 blocks this fall. A 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-American, she is also a three-time First Team All-State selection and was named MVP of the Class A state tournament.

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

"As potent an offensive weapon as she is, what many don't know is how truly gifted she is in the back row," said Jeff Kotalik, head coach at Mendon High. "Her passing and defense are what make her so deadly. You simply can't serve her—her skill, composure and coverage are just too good."

Schirmer has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Ohio 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.

Two-time winner Schirmer joins 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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