

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 17, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Nia Robinson of Cathedral High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year. Robinson is the third Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cathedral 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 Robinson as Indiana's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Robinson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert HS, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public HS, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View HS, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas HS, Fla.).

The 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter led the Fighting Irish to a 31-4 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Robinson recorded 588 kills, 252 digs and 44 blocks. A 2016-17 Under Armour Second Team All-American, she is also a two-time First Team All-State honoree and a First Team MaxPreps All-American.

A peer mentor in her school, Robinson has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility, a food pantry, a shelter for battered women, Habitat for Humanity and the Special Olympics. "Robinson is a very dynamic all-around player," said Bart Powell, head coach at Floyd Central High. "She's quick and very powerful, and she hits a really heavy ball. Her passing is very good too, and when she's one-on-one, you can't stop her."

Robinson has maintained a 4.03 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Northwestern University this 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Robinson joins recent Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Players of the Year Kendall White (2015-16, Cathedral High School), Carly Skjodt (2014-15, Carmel High School), Azariah Stahl (2013-14, Elkhart Central High School), Lauryn Gillis (2012-13, New Castle High School), Emily Wolfert (2011-12, Yorktown High School), Taylor Morey (2010-11, Muncie Burriss Laboratory School), Taylor Unroe (2009-10, Muncie Burriss Laboratory School), Darcy Dorton (2008-09, Delta High School) and Caitlin Cox (2007-08, New Castle Chrysler High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Robinson will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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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