

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**BISHOP SHANAHAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Renee Schultz of Bishop Shanahan High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year. Schultz is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Shanahan 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 Schultz as Pennsylvania'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, Schultz joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlerl 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 senior setter recorded 713 assists, 330 digs, 108 kills and 46 service aces this past season, leading the Eagles (37-1-1) to the Class 4A state final. A four-time All-State honoree, Shultz was also a four-time First Team All-League selection and was named the Daily Local News Player of the Year.

A member of her school's DECA Club and Community Service Corps, Shultz has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. "Renee Schultz is probably the best setter to come out of the area in two decades," said Mark Clark, head coach at Garnett Valley High. "When her team is struggling to find a point, she knows where the openings are and she puts the ball there. She betters every ball that she touches. She also has excellent serving, blocking and attacking ability."

Shultz has maintained a 4.20 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Yale University this fall, where she will play volleyball.

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.

Schultz joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Players of the Year Sam Graver (2016-17, Parkland High School), Kristin Krause (2015-16, Parkland High School), Meg Morningstar (2014-15, North Allegheny High School), Taylor Leath (2013-14, State College Area High School), Kelly Robertson (2012-13, Parkland High School), Alexa Swann (2011-12, Brandywine Heights Area High School), Shelbey Manthorpe (2010-11, Merion Mercy Academy), Kate Begor (2009-10, Mt. Lebanon High School), Danielle Carrozza (2008-09, Merion Mercy Academy) and Helen Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Merion Mercy Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Schultz 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

###