

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



**NEWS RELEASE**

**Illinois Volleyball Player Selected as National Recipient of  
NFHS National High School Spirit of Sport Award**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 23, 2010) — **Tori Clark**, a student-athlete at Lake Park High School in Roselle, Illinois, has been selected the 2010 national recipient of the “National High School Spirit of Sport Award” by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The “National High School Spirit of Sport Award” was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

Clark, who is a member of the volleyball and basketball teams, formerly participated on the soccer team. Her leadership skills and positive attitude led her teammates to vote her basketball team captain. She also is involved with a number of community events, including a wheelchair basketball tournament earlier this year.

However, those outstanding activities and accolades were just a precursor to one of the most selfless acts ever exhibited by a high school student-athlete.

In October 2009, Tori’s father showed her an article in a local newspaper regarding Christine Federico, a former star volleyball player and now a single mother of

two in a neighboring community. Federico had recently been diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome, a form of pre-leukemia. Her 13- and 17-year-old daughters are volleyball players at Neuqua Valley High School, which competes in the same conference as Lake Park High School.

Like many others reading the story, Tori initially felt bad for the Federico family, but she also felt compelled to do something more. Knowing that Lake Park would be hosting Neuqua Valley in volleyball in less than two weeks, she quickly began to recruit her teammates, coaches, parents and other fans to give back.

Tori had no connection with the Federico family. She didn't know her counterpart on the volleyball court (Nikki Federico), and the two seniors didn't have any mutual friends. Nonetheless, Tori orchestrated an evening that no one will soon forget.

Although Christine was unable to attend the November 9th match due to risk of infection, the surprise her daughters and her parents felt when they entered the gymnasium decorated floor to ceiling in orange (the ribbon color for leukemia awareness) had to be overwhelming.

Tori started the evening by taking the microphone at center court and explaining that the Lake Park volleyball team had dubbed the night "Teams Helping Teams." She also convinced a local vendor to donate orange t-shirts that read "Federico Family We Support You," that nearly everyone in the gym wore.

In the end, the team sold more than 600 t-shirts and raised in excess of \$3,500, which Lake Park presented to the Federico family to help pay for uninsured medical costs.

Through her selfless actions helping someone whom she had no real prior connection, Tori has set an outstanding example of how the positive spirit of sport can give back to someone in need.

In addition to the selection of Tori Clark as the national winner, the NFHS National High School Spirit of Sport Award Selection Committee chose seven other individuals for section awards. Following are the 2010 National High School Spirit of Sport section winners:

Section 1 – Jackie Quetti, student-athlete, Pittsfield (Massachusetts) High School

Section 2 – Jason E. Meade, coach, Mechanicsville (Virginia) Lee-Davis High School

Section 3 – Kaleb Eulls, student-athlete, Yazoo City (Mississippi) Yazoo County High School

Section 4 – Tori Clark, student-athlete, Roselle (Illinois) Lake Park High School

Section 5 – Jim Christy, coach, Minneapolis (Minnesota) South High School

Section 6 – Justin Ray Duke, student-athlete, Shepherd (Texas) High School

Section 7 – Corey Reich, coach, Piedmont (California) High School

Section 8 – Huslia Huslers Girls Basketball Team, Huslia (Alaska) Jimmy Huntington School

Nominations for this award were generated through NFHS member state associations and reviewed by the NFHS National High School Spirit of Sport Award Selection Committee composed of state association staff members. While the national winner will be recognized July 9 at the NFHS Summer Meeting in San Diego, the section winners will be recognized within their respective states and will receive awards before the end of the current school year.

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**About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and Rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing Rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.5 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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