

**GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 10, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Simon Hill of Glacier High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Hill is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Glacier 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 Hill as Montana's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in February, Hill joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.).

The 6-foot, 135-pound senior won the Class AA state meet this past season with a time of 15:50.69, breaking the tape 2.21 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Wolfpack to a seventh-place finish as a team. Hill was the top Montana finisher at the Mountain West Classic in Washington, placing fourth. He also crossed the line 31st at the Nike Cross National Northwest Regional championships.

Hill's sister Annie was the state's 2014-15 Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year and the 2016-17 Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year. The Glacier High student body president, he was the 2018 MHSAA Speech and Debate state champion. He owns his own lawn-mowing business and has volunteered locally as a youth running coach. "There were quite a few boys running up there with Simon this year, but what really separated him from the rest at the end of the day was his consistency," said Sarah Lord, head coach of Billings Senior High. "He really capitalized on his prior training and racing experiences to run top performances week after week."

Hill has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in his class. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Montana 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 and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Hill joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year Ben Perrin (2018-19, Flathead High School), Duncan Hamilton (2017-18, Bozeman High School), Chase Equall (2016-17, Bozeman High School), and Aidan Reed (2015-16 & 2014-15, Helena High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Hill has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.