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**HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MONTANA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 14, 2013) — In its 28<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 Taylor Goligoski of Hamilton High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Goligoski is the first Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hamilton 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 court, distinguishes Goligoski as Montana's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Goligoski joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8 sophomore guard averaged 21.2 points, 10.4 rebounds, 2.5 steals, 1.4 assists and 0.8 blocks per game this past season, leading the Broncs (15-6) to a Challenge Game loss prior to the Class A state tournament. Goligoski, who played the final nine games of the season with a fractured pinky finger on her shooting hand, was a First Team All-Southwestern A Conference selection after earning Second Team All-Conference honors as a freshman. She has scored 798 points in her prep basketball career.

Goligoski has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a neighborhood beautification project, as an elementary school teacher's aide and as a youth basketball, soccer and baseball coach.

"Taylor Goligoski sees the court so well and is a very unselfish player," said Mark Albert, head coach of Hamilton High. "She is constantly double- and triple-teamed but always finds a way to score."

Goligoski will begin her junior year of high school 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 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.

Goligoski joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Peyton Ferris (2011-12, Twin Bridges High School), Danielle Muri (2010-11, Billings West High School), Lexie Nelson (2009-10, Butte), Joslyn Tinkle (2008-09 & 2007-08, Big Sky), and Kirsten Tilleman (2006-07, Bozeman) 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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