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**FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 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 Matt Tokarz of Flathead High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Tokarz is the fourth Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Flathead 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 track, distinguishes Tokarz as Montana's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Tokarz joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior jumper won a pair of individual state championships this spring and led the Braves to a sixth-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. Tokarz won the long jump, soaring 22 feet, 7.75 inches and broke a 25-year-old state record in the triple jump with a leap of 48-9.5. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Tokarz also set a school record in the long jump with his mark at the state meet.

Tokarz has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community services initiatives in association with his church parish and as a youth track and field coach.

"Matt Tokarz has developed into an outstanding young gentleman who just happens to possess a lot of athletic ability," said Flathead High head coach Dan Hodge. "I have watched as he matured physically, athletically, academically and socially. He has continuously demonstrated the ability to do excellent work and has developed excellent working habits."

Tokarz has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on an athletic scholarship at Montana State 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 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.

Tokarz joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Zach Perrin (2011-12, Flathead High School), Scotty Koehler-Owens (2010-11 & 2009-10, Billings Senior High School), Chris Wilson (2008-09, C.M. Russell), Josh Pelczar (2007-08, Billings West), and Seth Grossman (2006-2007, Flathead) 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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