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BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® MONTANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2013) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Will Dissly of Bozeman High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year. Dissly is the second Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Dissly as Montana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Dissly joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 6-foot-5, 250-pound senior tight end and defensive end led the Hawks to a perfect 13-0 record and the Class AA state title this past season. Dissly recorded 64 tackles, 12 for loss, with 9.5 sacks and 32 quarterback hurries. He also caught 54 passes for 917 yards and 12 touchdowns. A First Team All-State selection on both offense and defense, Dissly was the Class AA co-Defensive MVP as a junior.

Dissly has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. Also a track and field standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports camps.

"Will Dissly is a monster," said Pat Murphy, head coach at Helena Capital High. "He's big, strong, physical and fast. Defensively, he takes away an entire half of the field at defensive end. Offensively, he's got such a big body that you can put three guys on him and they'll still throw him the ball."

Dissly remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Dissly joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Gunnar Brekke (2012-2013, Capital High School), Caleb Kidder (2011-12, Capital High School), Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School), Matt Miller (2009-10, Capital), Brock Osweiler (2008-09, Flathead High School) and Casey McMillan (2007-08, Central Catholic) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.