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**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2014) — 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 Jason Holmes of Bozeman High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Holmes is the second Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner 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 racecourse, distinguishes Holmes 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 January, Holmes joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-00, 2000-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9 senior distance runner raced to the Class AA individual state championship with a time of 15:13.35 this past season, leading the Hawks to the state title as a team. A three-time All-State selection, Holmes captured 13th place at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships in 16:03.40, clocking Montana's fastest 5K time of the fall.

Holmes has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in his graduating class of 422. A member of his school's National Honor Society and Key Club International chapters, he has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, at a musical festival and on behalf of the Montana Conservation Corps.

"Jason has enjoyed continual improvement throughout high school," said Bozeman head coach Clint May. "His desire to be recognized as an individual state champion has been easily recognizable for the past two years. This goal has driven his work ethic and mindset. His gritty determination is a thing of beauty. He has been a joy to coach."

Holmes remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Holmes joins Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Zach Perrin (2012-13, Flathead High School), Jakob Woodland (2011-12, Bozeman High School), Jacob Turner (2010-11, Sentinel High School), Mike Asay (2009-10, Manhattan), Drew Coco (2008-09, Whitefish), and Patrick Casey (2007-08, Laurel) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

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.

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