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BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MONTANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 13, 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 Alec Marshall of Bozeman High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Marshall is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer 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 Marshall as Montana's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Marshall joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10, 150-pound senior midfielder led the Hawks to a 15-0 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Marshall scored seven goals and passed for seven assists. A First Team All-State selection, he is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV Olympic Development Team and a two-time First Team All-Conference honoree.

Marshall has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Bozeman High concert choir and jazz choir, he has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and as a youth soccer coach. He has also completed a service mission trip to Peru, where he helped build indigenous guinea pig huts.

"Alec Marshall was a threat wherever he was in the attacking third," said Joel Marinaccio, head coach of CM Russell High. "Alec could shoot, pass and create some confusion for you in the attack. His off-the-ball work was very high and he used that a bit to make holes for the forwards in front of goal."

Marshall 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.

Marshall joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nick Downs (2012-13 & 2011-12, CM Russell High School), Anthony Keene (2010-11, Billings West High School), Zach Moyers, (2009-10, Billings West High School), Jack Pueringer (2008-09, Billings West), Garion Holian (2007-08, Hellgate), and Adam Clinch (2006-2007, Capital) 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>.