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**HELLGATE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 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 Tres Tinkle of Hellgate High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Tinkle is the fourth Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hellgate 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 Tinkle as Montana's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Tinkle joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-6, 205-pound junior guard and forward averaged 21.1 points, 7.5 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.8 steals per game this past season, leading the Knights (19-5) to the Class AA state championship game. A returning Class AA First Team All-State selection, Tinkle led Hellgate to the Class AA state championship as a junior last season, capturing 2013 state tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Tinkle has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's Link Crew leadership program, he has volunteered locally at the Missoula Food Bank and as a youth basketball instructor.

"Honestly, what doesn't impress me about Tres Tinkle?" said John Hollow, head coach of rival Helena High. "He can do everything. He is good on the perimeter, good in transition, can get to the rim, and probably what he gets the least amount of credit for is he is a lockdown defender. He could take every game over he plays in, but he wants to do what's best for the team, and I really respect that."

Tinkle will begin his senior 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.

Tinkle joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Daine Muller (2012-13, Skyview High School), Danny Robison (2011-12, Billings West High School), Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School), Josh Huestis (2009-10 & 2008-09, C.M. Russell), Andy Garland (2007-08, Sentinel High School), and Derek Selvig (2006-07, Dawson County) 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.

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