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**BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2014) — In its 29<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 Erika McLeod of Butte High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. McLeod is the second Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Butte 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 McLeod as Montana's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, McLeod joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-6 senior hurdler, sprinter and jumper won four individual state championships this spring and led the Bulldogs to a fifth-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. McLeod captured the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.21 seconds, the 300-meter hurdles in 43.09, the triple jump with a leap of 37 feet, 2.25 inches and the long jump by soaring 17 feet, six inches. A two-time Academic All-State selection, McLeod completed an undefeated season in both the 300-hurdles and the long jump in 2014.

McLeod has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, multiple food and clothing drives to benefit area families in need and as a youth track and field coach.

"Erika McLeod represents the sport of track and field very well," said Jerry Boschee, head coach at Glacier High. "Besides the impressive performances she turned in throughout the season, she is a very personable young lady. I love her competitiveness yet she stays humble while doing it."

McLeod has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Montana 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.

McLeod joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Morgan Sulser (2012-13, Billings Senior High School), Danielle Aragon (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Billings Senior High School), Kellee Glaus (2009-10, Whitehall), Alexa Aragon (2008-09, Billings Senior), Melissa Jenkins (2007-08, Big Sky), and Marissa Tschida (2006-2007, Loyola Sacred Heart) 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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