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

CHICAGO (February 5, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Averie Collins of Bozeman High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Collins is the fourth Gatorade Montana Girls 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 Collins as Montana's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Collins 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-11 senior midfielder scored 19 goals and passed for 10 assists this past season, leading the Hawks (13-2-2) to the Class AA state championship game. The daughter of former NFL defensive end Shane Collins, the 1986-87 Gatorade Montana Player of the Year in football as well as track & field, Collins was the MVP for the West squad at the High School Soccer All-American Game in December. A two-time State Player of the Year selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she concluded her prep soccer career with 57 goals and 29 assists.

Collins has maintained a 4.10 weighted GPA in the classroom. A violinist in the Bozeman High orchestra, she has been a student government representative at her school and has volunteered locally as a youth soccer and basketball coach.

"We always had to man-mark Averie with one, if not two, players just to contain her," said Lindsay Smith, head coach of Great Falls High. "Even if we were able to keep her from scoring, it opened up her teammates for opportunities. That is another great trait Averie has—she is about the team and not herself."

Collins has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Stanford University beginning 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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Maddy Emerick (2013-14, Billings Senior High School), Rachel Koehler (2012-13, Billings Senior High School), Savannah Witt, (2011-12, Billings West High School), Jackie Elliott (2010-11, Billings Central Catholic High School), Tess Hagenlock, (2009-10, Bozeman), Lauren Hickok (2008-09, Bozeman High School), Meghan O'Connell (2007-08, Flathead High School), and Kirsten Tilleman (2006-07, Bozeman) 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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