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**GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 14, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Annie Hill of Glacier High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Montana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Hill is the first Gatorade Montana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Glacier 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 Hill as Montana's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Hill 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.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-2 sophomore raced to the Class AA individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:30.7, leading the Wolfpack to a second-place finish as a team. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Hill won the Foot Locker West Regional championships, breaking the tape in 18:12.6 against an elite field. She also qualified for the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships where she finished 22nd in 18:18.9. She added another regional title to her resume by winning the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships with a time of 17:31.1.

Hill has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A talented artist, she performs in the school orchestra and has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group.

"Annie Hill may be as dedicated to the sport of cross country as anyone that I have ever seen," said Clint May, head coach at Bozeman High. "Watching her at a meet is to watch someone incredibly fierce yet remarkably friendly."

Hill will begin her junior 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.

Hill joins Gatorade Montana Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Makena Morley (2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Bigfork High School), Caroline Hardin (2010-11, Bozeman High School), and Heidi Turner (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Bozeman High School) 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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