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**FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 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 Jake Perrin of Flathead High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Perrin is the fifth Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Flathead 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 Perrin as Montana's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Perrin joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 5-foot-8, 145-pound senior distance talent won a pair of individual state championships this spring and led the Braves to a seventh-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. Perrin set all-class state records in both the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:12.06 seconds and the 3200-meter run in 9:04.35. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he competed at the prestigious Arcadia Invitational in California, where he earned a 17th-place finish out of 82 competitors in the 3200, crossing the line in a season-best 9:02.49.

Perrin has maintained a 3.10 GPA in the classroom. A student council representative, he is a devoted parishioner in his church community and has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter.

"For the last two years, Jake Perrin has set a standard I hope our future distant runners will follow," said Flathead High head coach Dan Hodge. "He never misses a workout and he always approaches them in a positive manner. He runs in all types of weather conditions and always wants to be up front in the pack, which is the sign of a true leader."

Perrin has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Gonzaga University 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.

Perrin joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Dalton Daum (2014-15 & 2013-14, Butte High School), Matt Tokarz (2012-13, Flathead High School), Zach Perrin (2011-12, Flathead High School), Scotty Koehler-Owens (2010-11 & 2009-10, Billings Senior High School), Chris Wilson (2008-09, C.M. Russell High School), Josh Pelczar (2007-08, Billings West High School), and Seth Grossman (2006-07, Flathead High School) 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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