

**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 8, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Zach Springer of Bozeman High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Springer is the fourth Gatorade Montana Boys 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 Springer as Montana's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Springer joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook High School, Mich.), Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy School of Young Women, N.Y.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, 2002-03, East Brunswick High School, N.J.), Matt Besler (2004-05, Blue Valley West High School, Kans.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire High School, Mass.) and Mallory Pugh (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colo.).

The 6-foot-1, 160-pound senior forward recorded 18 goals and 16 assists this past season, leading the Hawks (14-1) to the Class AA state championship game. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Springer was also the 2019 Class AA Eastern Division Player of the Year and the United Soccer Coaches' State Player of the Year. He concluded his prep soccer career with a Class AA-record 60 goals along with 33 assists.

Springer has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army and as a youth soccer coach. "Zach is a complete soccer player," said Hunter Terry, head coach of Bozeman High. "Zach is an incredible dribbler with a tremendous repertoire of deceiving moves and great speed. I have never coached a player that is so consistently able to create and put themselves in dangerous attacking situations as Zach does."

Springer has maintained a weighted 3.48 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Carroll College.

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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Springer joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Ted Scott (2018-19, Bozeman High School), Matt Baldrige (2017-18, Hellgate High School), Matt Baldrige (2016-17, Hellgate High School), Peter Byrne (2015-16, Hellgate High School), Ben Hietala (2014-15, Bozeman High School), and Alec Marshall (2013-14, Bozeman High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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