

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

CHICAGO (April 15, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Stirling Marshall-Pryde of Bozeman High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Marshall-Pryde is the fifth Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country 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 Marshall-Pryde as Montana's best high school boys cross country player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Player of the Year award to be announced in April, Marshall-Pryde joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.).

The 6-foot-1, 155-pound senior won the Class AA state meet this past season with a time of 16:35.40, breaking the tape 11.55 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Hawks to a third-place finish as a team. Marshall-Pryde won all six of his races against in-state competition in 2020 and clocked the state's season-best 5K time of 15:39.79 at the Amend Park Meet in October.

A former member of the Nordic Junior National Ski Team, Marshall-Pryde has volunteered locally with the Bozeman Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity. He has also donated his time performing piano recitals and singing at area nursing homes. "Stirling is a great runner. Throughout his high school career he always came back stronger and more efficient," said Lauren Zent, head coach of Billings West High. "In his senior year, he proved to be dominant in the state."

Marshall-Pryde has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Portland State 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Marshall-Pryde joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Simon Hill (2019-20, Glacier High School), Ben Perrin (2018-19, Flathead High School), Duncan Hamilton (2017-18, Bozeman High School), and Chase Equall (2016-17, Bozeman High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Marshall-Pryde has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Marshall-Pryde is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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