

**CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 6, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Talon Marsh** of **Capital High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year**. Marsh is the first Gatorade Montana Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Marsh as Montana's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Marsh joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Trevor Lawrence (2018-19 & 2016-17, Cartersville High School, Ga.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot-1, 230-pound senior defensive lineman tallied 71 tackles, including 25 for loss, and 23 sacks, leading the Bruins (12-0) to their first Class AA state championship since 2011. Marsh is believed to have set Capital's single-season and career sacks record in 2022. He was named Montana's Class AA Defensive MVP and is a two-time All-State selection.

A standout wrestler as well, Marsh has volunteered locally with the Florence Crittendon annual fundraiser and as a youth flag football coach. "I'd label him as one of the most dominant defensive players we've seen in a long time," said Helena High School head coach Dane Broadhead. "You really had to game plan around him and whatever you did, he found a way to be productive. He takes over games."

Marsh has maintained a B average in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he'd made a verbal commitment play football on scholarship at Montana 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Marsh joins recent Gatorade Montana Football Players of the Year Taco Dowler (2021-22, Billings West High School), Dylan Rollins (2020-21, Sentinel High School), Tommy Mellott (2019-20, Butte High School), and Carson Rostad (2018-19, Hamilton High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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