

**M O N T A N A ' S**  
**BIG SKY**  
**STATE GAMES**

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact: Karen Sanford Gall  
Lindsay Rossmiller  
(406)254-7426**

**OLYMPIC GOLD AND SILVER MEDALIST, WORLD CUP CHAMPION  
GOALIE TO LIGHT BIG SKY STATE GAMES TORCH**

USA Women's Soccer goalie Briana Scurry will be the special guest athlete of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Big Sky State Games. She will light the torch and address the audience during Opening Ceremonies, Friday, July 18, at Daylis Stadium in Billings.

Currently on the roster for this year's upcoming Olympics in Beijing, Scurry has played with the USA women's national team since 1994. The starting goalie from 1994-2000 and again from 2003-2004, she is a two-time Olympic gold medalist from 1996 and 2004 after playing every minute in each of those Olympics, and silver medalist from 2000. Part of the 1999 World Cup Championship team, Scurry also played every minute of each game in the World Cup. She is most well known for her saves in the World Cup semi-final game against Brazil and in a shootout during the championship game against China. The penalty kick save against China allowed the USA's Brandi Chastain to break the tie and USA to win the gold. Scurry also won bronze medals at the World Cup in 2003 and 1995. She currently holds the USA Women's National team records for most appearances by a goalie, most wins and the most shutouts.

Scurry was a founding member of the Women's United Soccer Association's (WUSA) Atlanta Beat from 2001-2004 and helped them to the championship in the inaugural year of the league. She also led her college team, UMASS, to Atlantic 10

Conference titles and to the semifinals of the NCAA Final Four in 1993 and was awarded the National Collegiate Goalkeeper of the Year. In high school, a multi-sport athlete, Scurry was voted the top female athlete in Minnesota after her senior year and an All-American.

She graduated in the spring of 1993 from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in Political Science. Scurry has volunteered with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and actively for AIDS awareness and research. After her soccer career, she wants to help create affordable housing for the elderly and disabled in metropolitan areas around the nation. Scurry currently resides in Redondo Beach, CA.

Gates for the Opening Ceremonies of the Big Sky State Games open Friday, July 18 at 5:30 p.m. The Parade of Athletes begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5, children under 6 are admitted free. State Games participants are admitted free with their Opening Ceremonies tickets. Fitness Walk participants and 5K runners need to check in at the sport tents located in the southeast corner of Pioneer Park for admission credentials.

Wendy's sponsors Opening Ceremonies. Major sponsors of the Big Sky State Games are First Interstate Bank, Kampgrounds of America and Bresnan Communications. For more information call 254-7426, or go online to [www.bigskygames.org](http://www.bigskygames.org).