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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jonathan de Marte of Lakeland High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year. de Marte is the first Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeland 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 de Marte as New York's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, de Marte joins an elite alumni association of past state baseball award winners, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Roy Halladay (1994-95, Arvada West HS, Colo.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman HS, Tenn.), Chipper Jones (1989-90, Bolles School, Fla.), Derek Lee (1992-93, El Camino HS, Calif.) and John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot-1, 195-pound junior right-handed pitcher had posted an 9-1 record this season with a 0.88 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 64 innings at the time of his selection, leading the Hornets (18-4) into the Class A sectional semifinals against Brewster, scheduled to begin June 1. An All-Conference, All-County and All-Section honoree in 2009, de Marte was also hitting .475 at the plate with four home runs and 26 RBI through 22 games this season.

De Marte has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A black belt in Taekwondo, he has volunteered locally with area youth sports teams and clinics, and on behalf of a program that trains guide dogs for the blind.

"He's got command of three pitches and he'll throw them at any time in the count," said Bob Shilling, head coach of rival Carmel High. "He's among the two or three best pitchers I've seen in 20 years coaching high school baseball."

De Marte has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Richmond and will begin his senior year of high school 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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

de Marte joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Marcus Stroman (2008-09, Patchogue-Medford), Philip Pohl (2007-08, Cooperstown) and Brian Dupra (2006-07, Greece Athena) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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