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**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Cody Riggs of St. Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Riggs is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Thomas Aquinas 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 track, distinguishes Riggs as Florida's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Riggs joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 5-foot-9 senior won the 300-meter hurdles at the Class 4A state meet in 36.44 seconds, the fastest time in the nation at the time of his selection, and led the Raiders to first place as a team. Riggs won three consecutive state titles in the 300-meter hurdles and was Class 4A state champ in the long jump as a junior.

Riggs has maintained a weighted 3.69 GPA in the classroom. Also a football standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Florida Youth Track and Field Association.

"Cody is amazing to watch—like poetry in motion," said St. Thomas Aquinas Head Coach Alex Armenteros. "He's always prepared, mentally and physically, and he understands the value of hard work."

Riggs has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

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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