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**KA'U HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® HAWAII 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 Jacob Edwards of Ka'u High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year.

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 Edwards as Hawaii'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, Edwards 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Edwards won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 15.02 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles in 38.27 seconds at the state Track & Field Championships for the second consecutive season, leading the Trojans to fourth place as a team this spring. A Hawaii High School Athletic Association Hall of Honor inductee, the 6-foot-2 senior also captured first place in the triple jump with a leap of 45 feet, 6.25 inches and sixth place in the long jump by clearing 21 feet, 4 inches. His 300-meter hurdles time at the state meet ranked No. 9 in the Northwest among prep competitors at the time of his selection.

Also a cross country and soccer standout, Edwards has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time by mentoring elementary school students as an advocate for drug-free and violence-free behavior, he has volunteered locally in association with community clean-up efforts and as a youth track and field instructor.

"I can't reiterate enough how from such a humble beginning what an extraordinary athlete he's become," said Ka'u Head Coach Bob Martin. "We don't have a proper track oval. He practices on a four-lane, grass, so-called track, and we didn't even have a jump pit in service until midway through the season. For him to end up No. 1 in the triple jump is just amazing. Considering the facility he's trained on for four years, he's done some amazing things."

Edwards has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Wyoming beginning 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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