

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Andreas Duplantis of Lafayette High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Duplantis is the second Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lafayette 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 Duplantis as Louisiana'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, Duplantis 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 junior captured the pole vault at the Class 5A state meet this past season with a leap of 16 feet, 1 inch. Duplantis has won three state pole vault titles outdoors and two indoors. He also took first at the Great Southwest Classic with a vault of 16 feet, 6 inches, the No. 12 mark in the nation at the time of his selection.

Duplantis has maintained an unweighted 3.56 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs.

"Andreas is a superb athlete who has good strength and can run well," said Lafayette Head Coach Keith Calvert. "His dedication to the sport is tremendous, and his work ethic is what gets him over the top."

Duplantis 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.

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.

###