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**MARCELLUS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Mike Quercia of Marcellus Senior High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New York Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Quercia is the first Gatorade New York Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Marcellus Senior 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 Quercia as New York'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, Quercia 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 6-foot senior captured the Division I state title in the 800-meter run this past season with a time of 1:50.27, the sixth-fastest clocking in the nation at the time of his selection. Quercia also won the 800-meter run at the Arcadia Invitational and the Loucks Games, and captured the state title in the 400-meter run as a junior.

Quercia has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army.

"He's done a tremendous job of developing his natural talent to the fullest," said Marcellus Head Coach Heidi Busa. "He's had to overcome difficulties in his life. But he has been amazingly focused and has always had his goals at the forefront."

Quercia has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Texas 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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