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**LANDSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Darrell Wesh of Landstown High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wesh is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Landstown 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 Wesh as Virginia'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, Wesh 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, 165-pound senior won the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and ran the anchor leg on the winning 4x100-meter relay quartet at the Group AAA state meet, leading the Eagles to third place as a team this spring. Wesh's winning time in the 200 of 21.23 seconds ranked No. 23 in the country among prep competitors at the time of his selection, while his 100 time of 10.66 seconds ranked No. 62 nationally. Wesh finished the 2010 indoor track season ranked No. 1 in the nation in the 55-meter dash and the 60-meter dash, winning the 60-meter national title at the Nike Indoor Nationals in 6.73 seconds.

Wesh has maintained an unweighted 3.16 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"He destroyed everybody in the state," said James DeMarco, head coach of Blacksburg High. "To win the 100 by a half-second is unbelievable. He's the fastest man in Virginia, which is a cool title."

Wesh has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Virginia Tech 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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