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**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Mike DiMambro of Essex High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. DiMambro is the third Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 DiMambro as Vermont'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, DiMambro 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-10, 170-pound junior won three events at this year's Division I state meet, leading the Hornets to the state championship. DiMambro won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.90 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 22.58 and the long jump with a leap of 21 feet, 7.5 inches. He also placed third in the high jump with a leap of 6 feet. DiMambro, who didn't lose an in-state race in the 100 or 200 this spring, finished sixth in both the long jump and the 100 at the New England Championship Meet.

DiMambro has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth football coach and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research.

"Mike DiMambro is the first guy in Vermont to go under 11 seconds in the 100 in awhile," said Bill Eschholz, head coach of rival Mount Mansfield Union High. "He's a quiet kid. He just gets in the weight room, does his work and works hard. He's coming into his own physically. He really listens and is really smart about what he needs to do. He's really focused on getting better."

DiMambro 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.

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