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**LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jonathan de Marte of Lakeland High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year. de Marte is the first Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeland 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 field, distinguishes de Marte as New York's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, de Marte joins an elite alumni association of past state baseball award winners, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Roy Halladay (1994-95, Arvada West HS, Colo.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman HS, Tenn.), Chipper Jones (1989-90, Bolles School, Fla.), Derek Lee (1992-93, El Camino HS, Calif.) and John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound senior right-handed pitcher posted a 6-1 record on the mound with a 1.22 ERA, leading the Hornets (16-3) to the Section I tournament this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, de Marte recorded 59 strikeouts and issued just five walks in 40 innings pitched, and batted .492 with 20 RBI. He was a First Team All-State selection and the Louisville Slugger New York Player of the Year in 2010.

De Marte has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A black belt in Taekwondo, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports teams and instructional clinics.

"He's as solid a pitcher as I've seen," said Tom O'Hare, head coach of rival John Jay High. "He's got a good fastball that overpowers a lot of kids, his slider is an out pitch, and he keeps guys off-balance with a good changeup. He's also a very tough out at the plate."

De Marte has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Richmond 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.

de Marte joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Jonathan de Marte (2009-10, Lakeland), Marcus Stroman (2008-09; Patchogue-Medford), Philip Pohl (2007-08, Cooperstown), and Brian Dupra (2006-07, Greece Athena), among the state's list of former award winners.

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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