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**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Morgann LeLeux of Catholic High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. LeLeux is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Catholic 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 LeLeux as Louisiana's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, LeLeux joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-7 senior captured her fifth straight Class 3A state championship in the pole vault this spring with a state-record clearance of 13 feet, nine inches. Also a five-time indoor state champion, LeLeux broke the national high school pole vault record when she cleared 14 feet, 2.75 inches at the Region 2 championships. She won this month's New Balance Outdoor Nationals pole vault championship for the second consecutive year.

LeLeux has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. Also a standout gymnast, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth gymnastics programs and an area nursing home.

"Morgann is an incredibly dedicated athlete," said Catholic High Head Coach Andrea Broussard. "She works non-stop in the gym and everything she does has to be perfect. She is 100-percent focused on whatever she sets her mind to."

LeLeux has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Georgia 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.

LeLeux joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Merritt Van Meter (2009-10, Metairie Park Country Day School), Kim Francis (2008-09, Nortide), and Rachel Laurent (2007-08, Vanderbilt Catholic) 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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