

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**BREAUX BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 23, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Kavahra Holmes of Breaux Bridge High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Holmes is the first Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Breaux Bridge 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 Holmes as Louisiana'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, Holmes joins an elite alumni association of 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.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 6-foot-1 junior won the 400-meter run with a time of 46.31 seconds at the Class 4A state championship meet this spring, leading the Tigers to the state championship as a team. Holmes also anchored the 4x200-meter relay quartet to victory in 1:26.31 and the 4x400-meter relay squad to first place in 3:19.60. Holmes' winning 400 time ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Holmes has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives with the Beta Club and the Boy Scouts of America.

"He's an extremely dedicated athlete and scholar," said Breaux Bridge High coach Brent Angelle. "He's one of the hardest-working young men I've ever coached."

Holmes 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.

Holmes joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Andreas Duplantis (2009-10, Lafayette), Richard Sheldon (2008-09, Episcopal), and Barrett Nugent (2007-08, North Vermillion) 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.

###