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**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Mike DiMambro of Essex High School as its 2010-11 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 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-10 senior won four individual state championships this spring and led the Hornets to the Division I state title as a team. DiMambro won the 100-meter dash in 11.16 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 22.79, the 110-meter high hurdles in 15.42 and the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 0.25 inches. An eight-time state champion, he placed second in the 100 meters and third in the long jump at the New England Interscholastic Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

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 is humble, gracious, talented and hard-working," said Essex High girls track coach Joe Gonillo. "He set goals for himself and worked extremely hard to attain them. He is as solid as a rock, and I have counted on him to come through in any tough situation."

DiMambro has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Rhode Island 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.

DiMambro joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Adron Pitmon (2008-09, Mt. Mansfield Union) and Ken Bunnell (2007-08, St. Johnsbury Academy) 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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