

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Sam Mattis of East Brunswick High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Mattis is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from East Brunswick 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 Mattis as New Jersey'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, Mattis 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, 218-pound senior field athlete captured the Meet of Champions title in the discus for the third consecutive spring with a throw of 206 feet. The Penn Relays Outstanding Individual Event Athlete of the Meet, Mattis also won the discus at the 2012 state Group IV championships with an effort of 186 feet, 10 inches. His state-record discus throw of 218 feet, four inches at the Middlesex County Relays ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2012 and the No. 14 distance in prep history at the time of his selection.

Mattis has maintained a 4.57 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to serving on his school's teen leadership council, he has volunteered on behalf of the Fast Break Basketball Association, providing basketball instruction to physically and intellectually challenged youths.

"Sam's strong desire to be an ideal role model and productive citizen even outweighs his desire to be a champion athlete," said East Brunswick head coach David Hagan.

Mattis will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall, where he will continue his track and field career.

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 ESPNHS 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.

Mattis joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Nick Vena (2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08, and 2010-11, Morristown High School) 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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