



For Immediate Release

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**SENATE PRESIDENT ALARIO & SEN. CORTEZ
APPLAUD LHSAA DECISION TO ALLOW WORLD CLASS LA POLE VAULTER
TO COMPETE IN TEXAS RELAYS**

Senate President John Alario and Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Interscholastic Athletics Sen. Page Cortez are commending the decision by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) to allow Lafayette High School's world class pole vaulter, Mondo Duplantis, to compete in the Texas Relays. LHSAA executive director Eddie Bonine announced the one-time exemption from association rules that would have required Duplantis to forgo his high school eligibility in order to compete against other world class athletes at the Texas event.

"I commend LHSAA Executive Director Bonine for putting deserving athletes first when they have an opportunity to achieve greatness and not getting caught up in needless bureaucracy," Sen. Cortez said. "We ask our students to achieve at the highest levels. We shouldn't penalize them for trying to do so."

Mondo Duplantis is a three-time state champion in Louisiana and holds world records in the pole vault, beating professionals in the process. The potential Olympian has even traveled to London to compete at the World Outdoor Championships. The Texas Relays are an opportunity for him to compete against the top-ranked pole vaulters in the world and showcase his talents on a world stage.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for this fine young man who has worked hard to hone his talents and abilities," Senate President John Alario said. "We should foster any opportunity for him to succeed and I am pleased that high school athletic officials have seen fit to allow that to happen."

The Texas Relays are set to begin Wednesday at the University of Texas in Austin.

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