

Leleux receives national honor

From staff reports

Catholic High-New Iberia's Morgann Leleux has been named the girls track and field honoree for the 2011 Senior Athletes of the Year presented by the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA).

The nation's top female pole vaulter capped an enormously successful high school career with the two best state series vaults of her career.

In the Class 3A region meet at UL's Cajun Track, Leleux cleared 14-2.5 to set a national record. Tori Anthony of Palo Alto (Calif.) Castilleja High had set the indoor record (14-2) and the outdoor record (14-1) in 2007.

Leleux had cleared 14-1 indoors this year to rank No. 2 all-time indoors, and she has cleared as high as 14-9 outdoors in practice. Leleux followed her record region jump by setting the all-class record of 13-9 at the LH-SAA State Meet at LSU's Bernie Moore Stadium.

It was her fifth consecutive state title after a second-place finish as a seventh-grader. Leleux also was a five-time Divi-

sion 2 indoor state champion, marred only by a second-place finish as an eighth-grader.

As a junior, Leleux set national junior class and age 17 records when she first cleared 14-0, and also holds the national freshman record (13-2). A four-time National Junior Champion, Leleux set a National Scholastic Juniors record and captured titles at the Nike Indoor, the National Scholastic Indoor and the New Balance Outdoor meets in 2010 and finished fifth at the 2009 World Youth Championships at Bresanone, Italy.

She will attend the University of Georgia.

This is the 12th year the NHSCA has honored these achievers in the high school athletic community nationwide. This year's recipients, selected in a total of 20 boys and girls sports, are from 13 different states. Oklahoma topped all states with three selections. Five states had two athletes selected — Illinois, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia — with seven other states claiming one honoree each.