



women of faith pursuing excellence
Xavier College Preparatory
Roman Catholic High School

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY STUDENT SARAH FAKLER NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

(PHOENIX) - Xavier College Preparatory is pleased to announce that Sarah Fakler has been named the 2011-12 Gatorade Arizona Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year by The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN HS. The award - which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the racecourse - distinguishes Fakler as Arizona's best high school girls cross country runner for the second year in a row.

In addition to her athletic achievements, Fakler has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Xavier Xero Club, which promotes environmentally sustainable activities. "Sarah is a respected, valued teammate and a profoundly motivated competitor," said Xavier co-coach Jeffrey Messer. "She's a truly special student-athlete and, most importantly, individual." Fakler will begin her 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 HS 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.

Fakler joins Gatorade Arizona Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Jessica Tonn (2009-10 & 2008-09, Xavier College Preparatory), and Nadya Bishton (2007-08, Mountain Ridge) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

Xavier College Preparatory, located at 4710 North Fifth Street in north central Phoenix, has built an outstanding record of academic excellence, innovation, leadership development, athletics and community service. Xavier is twice recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, and recognized nationally for academic excellence by the Catholic High School Honor Roll in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Xavier was awarded the 2007-08 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement, honoring high schools with high student success rates in AP math, science and technology courses. The Arizona Interscholastic Association awarded Xavier its prestigious H.A. Hendrickson Award (2009) for overall excellence in interscholastic competition and its Blue Cup Award (2006) for excellence in scholastics, athletics and activities.

All Xavier graduates attend post-secondary institutions. Members of the Class of 2011 were accepted at 279 colleges and universities, garnering over \$27 million in college scholarships. Over thirty percent of Xavier students have financial need, and Xavier is strongly committed to educating all qualified students.

Xavier College Preparatory is a Catholic community that strives to prepare young women with knowledge, skills, and integrity to meet the challenges of a changing global society in a positive and productive manner. This pursuit of excellence, individual and cooperative, is our mission.

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