

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**CHRISTIAN LIFE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 12, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN HS, today announced Anna Katherine Devitt of Christian Life Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Katherine Devitt is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Christian Life Academy.

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 Katherine Devitt as Louisiana's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Katherine Devitt joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-00, 2000-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-1 senior raced to a fourth consecutive Class 1A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:33.96, leading the Crusaders to second place as a team. Devitt placed 37th at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 19:22 in addition to winning the St. Michael's Bayou Boogie, Episcopal Round Table Invitational and Baton Rouge Metro Invitational this past fall. She captured second place at the 2007 Class 1A state meet as an eighth-grader.

Also a track standout, Devitt has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom and has served as junior class secretary. A member of her school's Key Club International chapter and the National Honor Society, she has volunteered as part of a service-mission trip to Mexico, on behalf of a local homeless shelter and in association with her church's youth group.

"Anna Katherine has been a leader both on and off the course," said Christian Life Academy head coach Aaron Nasers. "She has continued to inspire and coach the younger girls to work hard, putting their best effort into each practice. She is a humble young lady who puts her teammates above herself. This was the first time in school history that we have fielded a girls' team at state. It was a refreshing time as a coach to see a runner and a leader inspire by example and words."

Devitt remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Katherine Devitt joins Gatorade Louisiana Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Kaitlin Flattmann (2010-11, Benton High School) and Malia Cali (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Thomas Aquinas) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

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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