



Four Scholarships Awarded by Orlando Runner's Club

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Pictured left to right: Jason McLeod, Rachel Stephens, Cole Bossom, Ana Groff.

Winter Park, Aug. 9: The 27th annual Charles M. Rowson, Jr. Scholarships were given to four deserving 2009 senior runners. The recipients are selected from coach's nominees based upon athletic accomplishments, academic record, community service, financial need and college running plans. Athletes selected for this honor are as follows.

Ana Groff of Winter Park High School, who finished second in Florida at the state 800M finals with a time of 2:13.60. She has three school track records and qualified twice for the state championship in the 5000M cross country finals. Groff was valedictorian and a member of the National, Spanish, Math and English Honor Societies. Her community service includes teaching Sunday School, volunteering for Ronald McDonald House, Boys & Girls Club, Home Sweet Homeless and mission trips for her church. Groff has an athletic scholarship to run track at the University of Connecticut.

Cole Bossom of Trinity Preparatory School, Winter Park, who finished 15th in the state in the 5000M cross country championship at 16:34 and sixth in the 800M at the regional championship at 2:04.88. He was team captain for one year of cross country and two years in track and a member of the state championship 4x800 relay team in 2008 and 2009. Bossom was a member of the National Honor Society, Headmaster's list, Honor

Roll, Duke TIP program and yearbook co-editor in chief. His community service includes Boy Scouts Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow and Junior Assistant Scout Master, as well as Shakespeare for Kids fencing instructor. Cole plans to participate at running and fencing at Duke University.

Jason McLeod of Circle Christian School, Orlando, who finished third in Florida in the 1600m metric mile at 4:28.24, fourth in the 3200m at 9:53.49 and ninth in the 5000m at 16:16. He holds four individual and three relay school records, was named to the Orlando Sentinel's All Central Florida Track & Field and Cross Country teams, the Florida Athletic Coach's Association Senior Cross Country All-Stars, the Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (FIAAA) Scholarship Award, the FIAAA Sportsmanship Award and the Circle Christian School Centurion Award. McLeod has maintained a 3.925 unweighted GPA while running and working, is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two Year Colleges as a dual enrolled student, and is a member of the National Association of High School Scholars. His community service includes extensive involvement in leadership at his church, and has been part of three short-term mission trips. He will be running under athletic and academic scholarships at Bryan College, Dayton TN.

Rachel Stephens of Wekiva High School, Apopka, who qualified for regional competition in cross country and has a personal best time of 26:03. She was a member of Wekiva's first regional qualifying cross country team, captain of the lacrosse team and recipient of the US Army Reserve Scholar/Athlete Award for Wekiva high school. Stephens was valedictorian, Vice President of the Beta Club, member of the National Honor Society and the Tri M Music Honor Society. Her community activities include volunteer work via her church and honor societies, Christmas Child and Relay for Life. Stephens is enrolled at the University of Florida and plans to continue to be involved in running and intramural athletics.

The Orlando Runners Club (ORC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting long distance running as a competitive sport and as healthful exercise. The Charles M. Rowson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship was established in 1983 by the Orlando Runners Club in memory of one of our members, "Chuck" Rowson, who died unexpectedly at age 29. The first two scholarships totaling \$500 were presented in 1987; the ORC has provided scholarships each year since to local high school athletes, now providing a total of \$4,000 annually for up to four students. The Charles M. Rowson, Jr. Scholarship has become recognized as one of Central Florida's most prestigious awards given to graduating seniors with an interest in running. ORC has awarded 76 college scholarships to high school graduates since 1987.