

St. Thomas' Berg headlines 2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The 2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Championship was certainly exciting, with Gustavus winning an extremely close three-team race to take the title, and St. Thomas senior **Taylor Berg** delivering the top individual highlight with her first-place finish. Thursday, Berg and the Gustavus team were among the top honorees when the conference announced the 2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Awards.

Berg headlined Thursday's awards announcement as the 2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Most Valuable Athlete in recognition of her outstanding performance Saturday at Como Park Golf Course in St. Paul, Minn. Gustavus Head Coach **Dale Bahr** was voted the 2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Coach-of-the-Year after leading his team to the conference championship. Thursday's awards release also included the All-Conference team, All-Conference Honorable Mention squad and the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.



Berg - the St. Thomas star senior appearing in her final MIAC Cross Country meet - won the individual title by finishing the 6K course in first place with a time of 21:39.3. Over the first half of the race, Berg was among the leaders, but she emerged as the front-runner over the second half of the race, surging into first and crossing the finish line nearly 15 seconds before the runner-up. Berg - who was also named MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week on Oct. 1 - also headlined the All-MIAC team with her third-straight All-Conference honor after finishing fourth in each of the past two seasons.

Bahr earned his first MIAC Cross Country Coach-of-the-Year honor by leading the Gusties to their second conference championship, with the first coming in 2003. Gustavus emerged victorious in a competitive field with 57 points, three better than runner-up St. Olaf (60) and 11 better than defending champion Carleton (68). The Gusties placed five runners in the top 26, including four in the top 12 and two in the top five. All seven Gustavus runners finished in the top 52, completing the 6K course in under 24:19.

The top 15 runners in Saturday's race were automatically named All-Conference for their performance, while the next 10 finishers (16-25) were named All-MIAC Honorable Mention. The Gusties led the way with four All-Conference runners, while Carleton matched the champs with four on the All-MIAC squad as well. St. Olaf had three All-MIAC finishers, St. Thomas had two and Augsburg and Hamline had one apiece. The Oles led the way with three Honorable Mention runners, Saint Benedict and Carleton had two each and Macalester, Concordia and St. Catherine had one apiece.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the seventh annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for Women's Cross Country. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.

2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Awards

2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Most Valuable Athlete - Taylor Berg, St. Thomas (Eagan, Minn.)

2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year - Dale Bahr, Gustavus

2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country All-Conference Team

Place	Time	Name	School	Year	Hometown/High School
1	21:39	Taylor Berg	St. Thomas	Sr.	Eagan, Minn
2	21:54	Jorden Johnson	St. Olaf	So.	Blaine, Minn.
3	22:01	Emma Lee	St. Olaf	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn./Como Park
4	22:29	Rebecca Hare	Gustavus	So.	Albany, Minn./Saint John's Prep
5	22:33	Caitlin Fermoye	Gustavus	So.	Mendota Heights, Minn./Henry Sibley
6	22:40	Erin Statz	St. Thomas	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb./Pius X
7	22:40	Maria Theisen	Hamline	Sr.	Minneapolis, Minn./Southwest
8	22:43	Lauren Rice	Augsburg	Jr	Minnetonka, Minn./Holy Family Catholic
9	22:55	Ruth Steinke	Carleton	Fr.	Lime, N.Y./ Honeoye Falls- Lima
10	22:56	Kate Eggers	Gustavus	Sr.	Montevideo, Minn.

11	22:59	Shira Kaufman	Carleton	Fr.	Leverette, Mass./Amherst Regional Academy
12	23:01	Elizabeth Hauer	Gustavus	Sr.	Little Falls, Minn.
13	23:08	Becca Bevans	St. Olaf	Sr.	Waverly, Neb.
14	23:11	Colette Celichowski	Carleton	So.	Shorewood, Minn./Minnetonka
15	23:12	Sally Donovan	Carleton	Fr.	Minneapolis, Minn./South

2012 MIAC Women's Cross Country Honorable Mention All-Conference Team

<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
16	23:12	Cathleen Gross	Saint Benedict	Fr.	Brooklyn Park, Minn./ Robbinsdale Armstrong
17	23:16	Rachel Gunsalus	Macalester	Sr.	Los Gatos, Calif./ St. Francis
18	23:18	Hannah Knickerbocker	Concordia	Jr.	Stanfield, Minn./ Cambridge- Isanti
19	23:22	Rachael Klehm	Carleton	Jr.	Wellesley, Mass.
20	23:24	Maggie Exner	St. Olaf	Jr.	Wheaton, Ill./ North
21	23:27	Haley Johnson	Carleton	Sr.	Golden Valley, Minn./ Robbinsdale Cooper
22	23:27	Andi Gomoll	St. Olaf	Sr.	Whitefish Bay, Wis.
23	23:29	Kelsie Larson	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Decorah, Iowa
24	23:29	Sophie Pietrick	St. Olaf	Sr.	Minnetonka, Minn.
25	23:31	Ailee Larson	St. Catherine	So.	Lutsen, Minn./ Cook County

2012 All-MIAC Women's Cross Country Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg - Adrienne Young (Sr., Minneapoils, Minn./St. Anthony Village)
 Bethel - Jenna Diercks (Sr., Lakeville, Minn/ Lakeville North)
 Carleton - Haley Johnson (Sr., Golden Valley, Minn./Robbinsdale Cooper)
 Concordia -Christie Bunge (Sr., Wrenshall, Minn.)
 Gustavus - Meredith Bache-Wiig (Sr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata)
 Hamline - Hannah Toedter (Jr., Wadena, Minn./ Wadena-Deer Creek)
 Macalester - Rachel Gunsalus (Sr., Los Gatos, Calif./ St. Francis)
 Saint Benedict - Caitlin Goodman (Sr., Eugene, Ore./South Eugene)
 St. Catherine - Emily Eastman (Sr., Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata)
 Saint Mary's - Jordan Junker (Sr., Glenwood City, Wis.)
 St. Olaf - Emily King (Sr., Fridley, Minn./Tontino-Grace)
 St. Thomas -Jessie Zwazinger (Sr., Savage, Minn./Prior Lake)
