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**CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL FEMALE CHESS PLAYER BREAKING THROUGH
THE CHESS GLASS CEILING.**

St. Louis, MO November 24, 2009 – Tess Butcher, a Crossroads College Preparatory School Senior, placed first in the twelfth grade division at the Missouri Grade Level Championships in Columbia, Missouri on October 24, 2009. Butcher finished ahead of nine other players with a perfect 5-0 record. Butcher and Walker Frantz-Greene, another Crossroads College Preparatory School Senior, won the twelfth grade team championship as well.

In Missouri, less than 5% of chess players are female; Butcher is breaking through the chess glass ceiling. Butcher's accomplishments include a 1070 United States Chess Federation, Missouri K-12 championship win, and in 2008 won 60% of her matches, many against higher rated opponents.

Chess, typically a male-dominated sport, is seeing this trend breaking down. Tony Rich, Executive Director at The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis, says "Women are discovering that chess is fun and accessible, and the stigma that chess is a boring, male-dominated game is going away."

The Nationally ranked Crossroads College Preparatory School Chess Team, featuring Tess Butcher, will play in a tournament at Chaminade College Preparatory School on Saturday, December 5, 2009.

Crossroads College Preparatory School offers an academically challenging curriculum to a diverse and inclusive community of students from over 60 zip codes in grades seven through twelve. Crossroads College Prep encourages its students to engage their imaginations in every endeavor, ranging from the sciences to the fine arts, and strives to develop respectful citizens, who apply scholarship, imagination, and critical thinking to civic and social responsibility in their communities and beyond

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